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EDMONTON'S 100% INDEPENDENT NEWS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

**VUEWEEKLY**

**DR. DAVID  
SWANN  
WENT TO  
BAGHDAD  
AND ALL  
HE SAW  
WERE  
ORDINARY  
PEOPLE  
CAUGHT  
IN THE  
CROSSHAIRS**

**TO:  
IRAQ**

**HUMANITARIAN AID**

**FR: THE  
WORLD**

**HUMANITARIAN AID**

**FRONT:  
COMEDY  
ARTS  
FESTIVAL • 17**

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# TARGETING IRAQ

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**SIDETRACK**  
*Cafe*

Thursday JANUARY 16

**WEATHER  
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ACTION  
HEROES**

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**THE THREE  
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WITH THE TWO JACKS

Sunday JANUARY 19

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JANUARY 20-22

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www.sidetrackcafe.com**VUEfinder****ON THE COVER:**

Doctor/activist David Swann took an extended trip to Baghdad late last year—and he's returned to Alberta with a very different impression of Iraq (and the ordinary people who might find themselves under attack very shortly) from the one you tend to get in the mainstream media • 8

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Kurt and Calcutt converse about comedy • 17

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**yourVUE****Fatale attraction**

After reading *Vue*'s January 2-8 issue, with its "2002: The Year That Was" coverage, I have garnered new admiration for your paper, and especially towards your movie reviewers.

For as long as I can remember, my household has subscribed to two newspapers. Every Friday I eagerly wait to read the reviews of that weekend's forthcoming films. As a film studies student, I believe that I am knowledgeable enough to be able to criticize and understand criticism fairly.

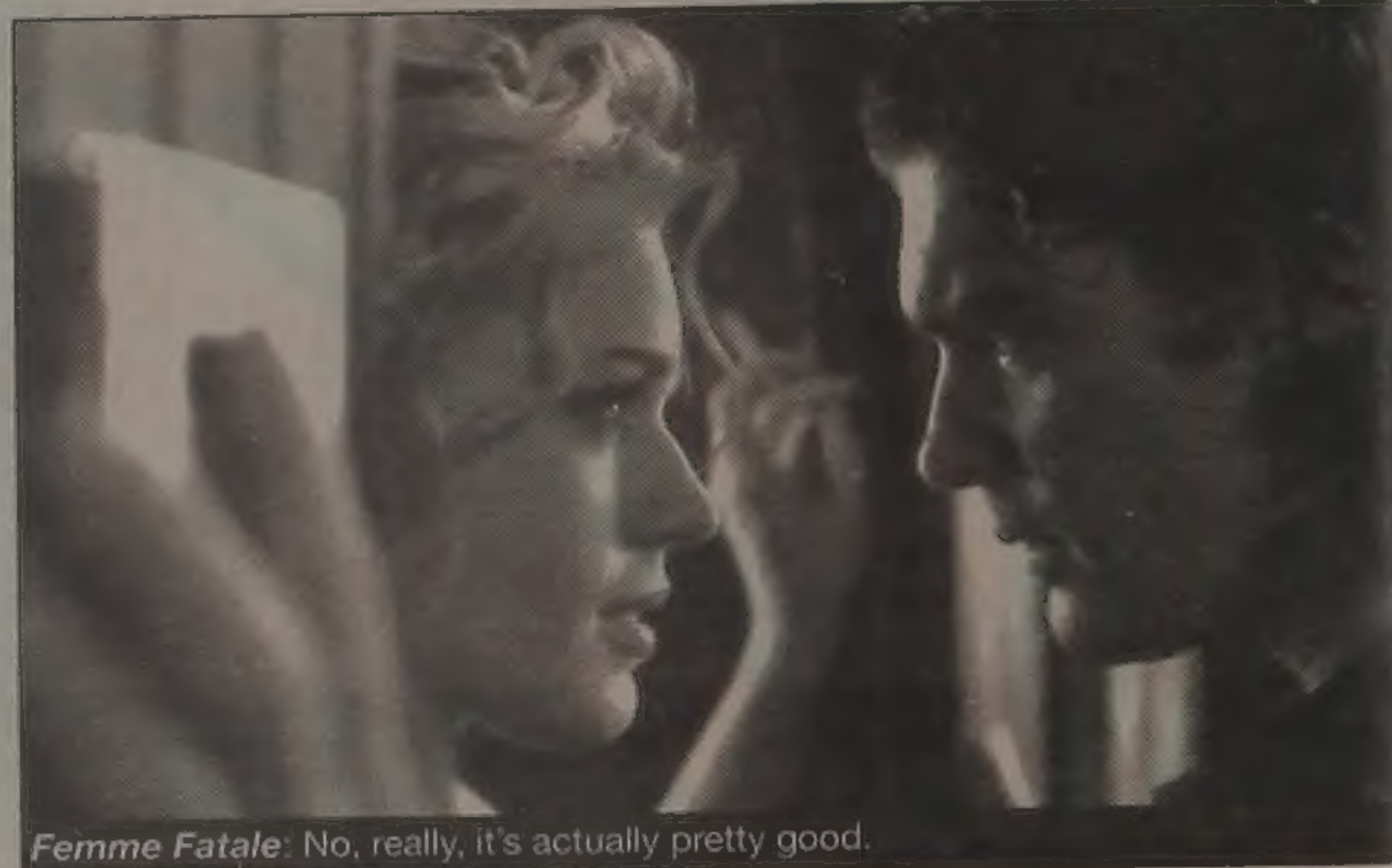
As in any art form, one has to accept that everyone has different likings. It would be very rare to expect that two people's top 10 picks would ever be the same. However, I would like to acknowledge and praise the

intelligent, truthful and thoughtful reviews your paper has shown.

I would specifically like to cite an example from Paul Matwychuk's top 10 films of 2002. His choice for #10, *Femme Fatale*, would have been my choice for #1. *Femme Fatale* has gained mostly negative reviews. Reviewers have called it "a live-action *Maxim* magazine" and some have gone so far as to call it incoherent. Nonetheless, those reviews affected the film and it was gone out of theaters faster than any Madonna movie.

For Mr Matwychuk to call it "the most underrated film of the year.... Any critic who pans *Femme Fatale* does not understand movies, let alone like them" was beyond truthful.

One of the papers that I subscribe to (which I will not name as it is not one of my choices) has movie reviewers that seem to believe that no movie



*Femme Fatale*: No, really, it's actually pretty good.

made after 1975 deserves more than two and a half stars out of four. I have found that while reading the weekly reviews and especially the "Best of 2002: Top Films" that *Vue*'s reviews are refreshing, smart, fair, agreeable and totally opposite to the papers that I detest. I now look forward to every Thursday to be able pick up the newest *VUE* and read the movie reviews. —DONOVAN KRILL, EDMONTON

*Vue Weekly* welcomes reader response, both positive and negative. Send your opinion by mail (*Vue Weekly*, 10303 108 Street, Edmonton, AB, T5J 1L7) by fax ((780) 426-2889) or by e-mail (letters@vue.ab.ca). Preference is given to feedback about articles in *Vue Weekly*; we reserve the right to edit letters for length and clarity. Please include a daytime telephone number.

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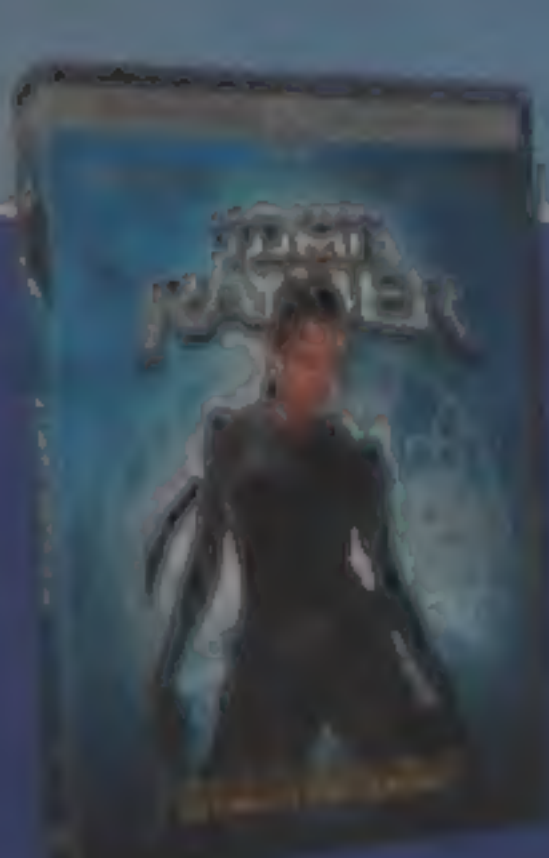


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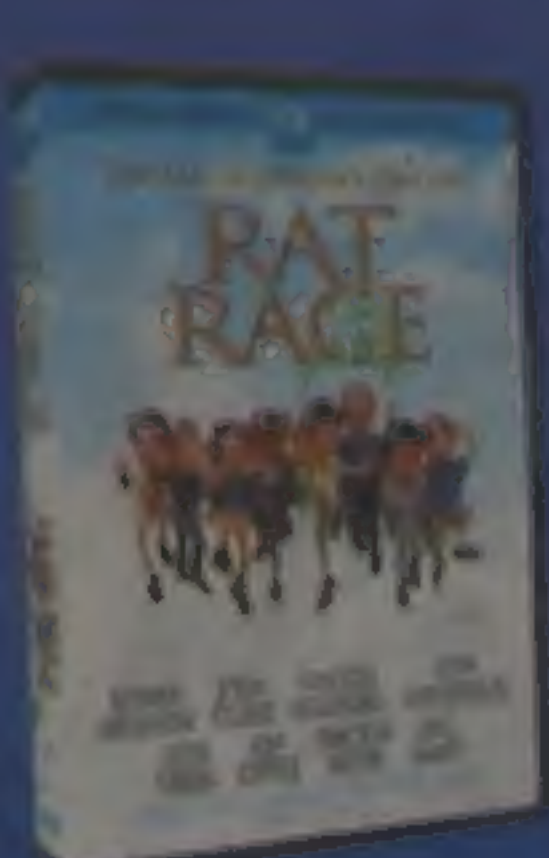
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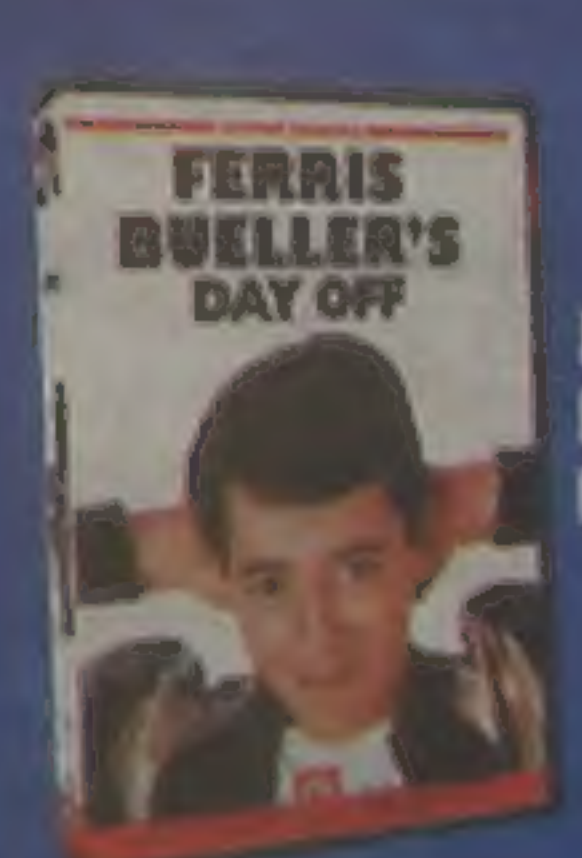
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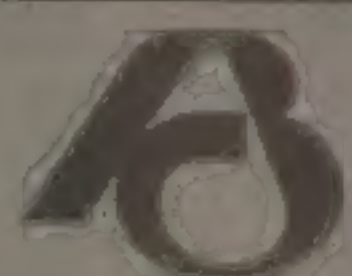
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# MEDIA JUNGLE



Insight into  
the hype  
machine

BY KAREN LURIE

## News gets more urban with less verbin'

The "voice" of television news is expected to be more conversational and less formal than newspaper writing. But lately, as cable news organizations try to fix what ain't broken, that voice is becoming more and more wince-inducing.

Back in October, a CNN Headline News producer sent an internal e-mail

to the writing staff that read, "In an effort to be sure we are as cutting-edge as possible with our on-screen persona, please refer to this slang dictionary when looking for just the right phrase." Words such as "freak" (sex), "fly" (sexually attractive), "jimmy cap" (condom) and "ill" (to act inappropriately) followed. The e-mail went on to instruct the writers to "use this guide to help all you homeys and honeys add a new flava to your tickers and dekos"—that is, the graphics that appear on the overcrowded, seizure-inducing Headline News screen.

The revelation of this memo gave humourists a nice little shot in the arm. James Earl Jones intoning "This is CNN, beeyotch"—this stuff writes itself! But by the time it had come to light, AOL-Time Warner's news warhorse was already wedging terms like "bling bling" into its crawl. This e-mail merely revealed that the man behind the curtain has a glossary.

CNN, with its average viewer age of 62, was no doubt responding to the belief floating around out there that coveted younger audiences, the

18- to 34-year-olds who command the highest ad rates, get their news from hipper television sources, including comedians like David Letterman, Jon Stewart and Tina Fey. Even if that were true, it's not like those three are peppering their jokes with hip-hop lingo; when was the last time you heard Letterman complain about Saddam being all up in our grill?

Slang is an ever-changing organism, which makes it impossible to keep a dictionary current or relevant; wouldn't squeezing obsolete slang into the "dekos" completely undermine the purpose of using it to sound hip? The claim that slang "modernizes" a newscast only makes sense if they are replacing old slang with new, but it's not like Judy Woodruff has been calling Wolf Blitzer "Daddio" all these years.

And it's just as cynical to believe that everyone in a certain age group—or any other group—is hip to certain (or any) slang as it is to believe that a target 20-year-old would flip by, see that "jimmy cap" has been shoehorned into CNN's crawl, not recognize that she's being pandered to or having her culture exploited and lock in CNN with "favourite channel" status, saying to herself, "Finally, news that speaks to me."

Or maybe that should be "Finally, news, speaking to me," because CNN fronting with the slang is just one change in the language of TV news. Tune in to CNN, Fox News and occasionally even the broadcast networks and you'll hear elliptical, participle-filled sentence fragments like these, recently uttered by Fox News Channel's Shepard Smith: "Meantime, the Navy, looking for another suitable training location, the Navy secretary saying it will be tough but not impossible. The Navy using Vieques for the past 60 years."

Or this bit of verblessness, from NBC's Andrea Mitchell: "Gary Condit today, the first sighting in weeks."

Or these shards, from CNN's John King: "Those negotiations continuing. Mr. Bush speaking to reporters earlier today. Suddenly optimistic."

This phenomenon was explored by PBS's *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, where it was somewhat mistakenly called "The Vanishing Verb" (the verbs are

usually there, they're just tense-less), and, more recently, in the *New York Times*. Smith of Fox News calls it "people-speak." He told the *NewsHour's* Terence Smith, "I try to talk like I speak when I'm yakking with my buddies."

But this really isn't the way people talk in conversation, casual or otherwise, unless you go around saying things like "Me, suddenly stuffy. A cold today. Buying cough drops."

This flashy, spliced speech has also been implemented to save valuable time (although, of course, "Those negotiations continue" is actually shorter than "Those negotiations continuing"). Even if it does occasionally shave a couple of syllables off a sentence, is that really necessary? Is there really so much more to cram into a newscast than there used to be (when 24-hour news channels didn't exist) that words need to be squeezed out of sentences?

Judging from the numbing repetition, examination of minutiae and parade of "usual suspect" pundits, the biggest problem the 24-hour cable news channels seem to have isn't making time, but filling up the time.

The addition of hip-hop slang and "people-speak" are two misguided "solutions" to the same imagined "problem": that the "on-screen persona" of TV news has to be changed to accommodate the supposed throngs of young people who aren't interested in, or can't focus on, straightforward information and who need to be lured in by choppy, faux-chummy incomplete sentences and forced, contrived lingo—like trying to focus and entertain an infant by shaking a shiny, jangly set of keys in its face. But if the result is the loss of credibility with younger viewers and the repulsion of older viewers, who is left to tune in?

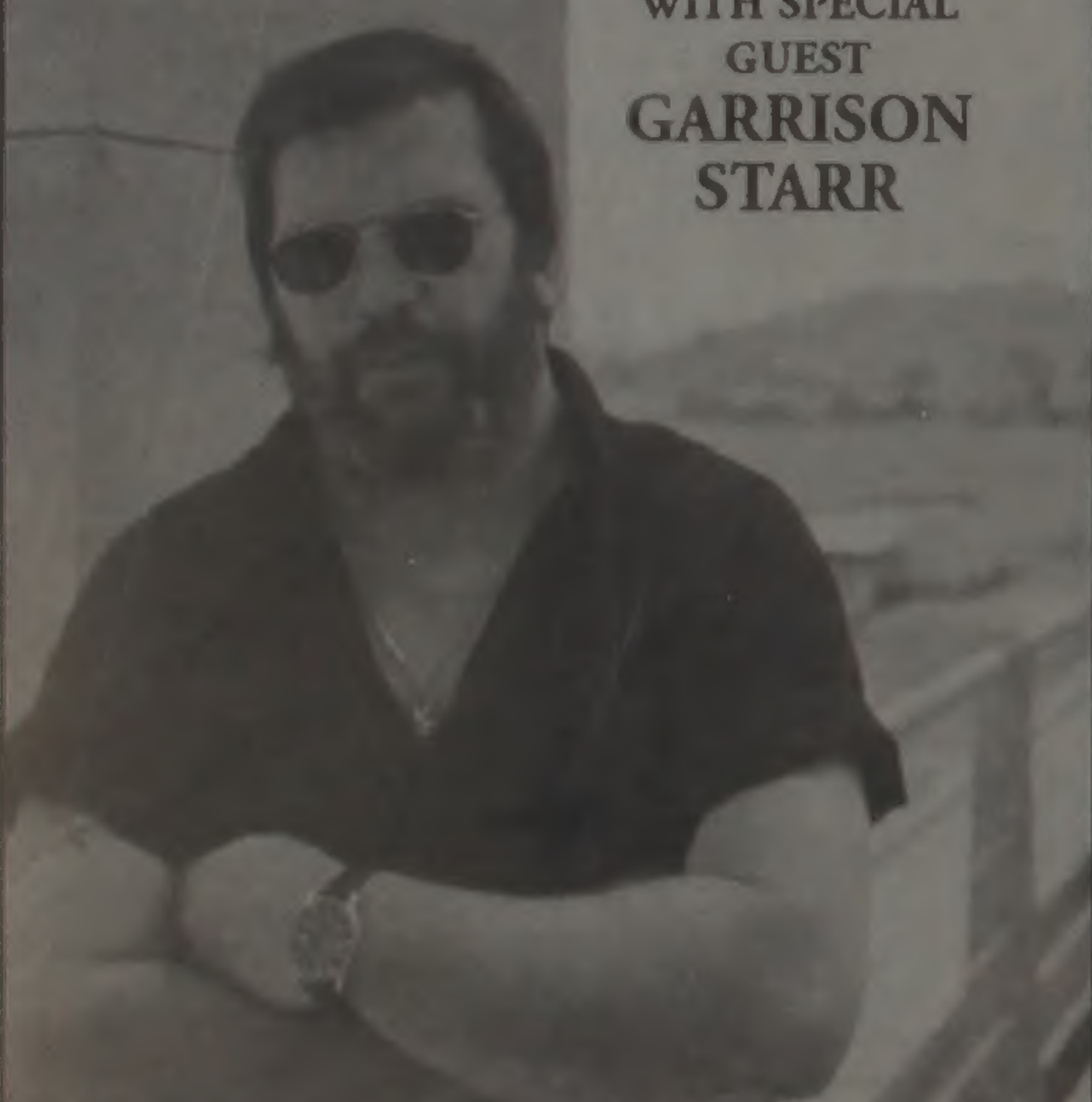
"It's definitely not your mom's Headline News anymore," Headline News chief Rolando Santos told the *San Francisco Chronicle* about his revamped product (ironically using a stale cliché in the process). But has anyone in this focus-group-crazy business even asked if people thought the news sounded too "old-fashioned" before? What makes the ratings go up on cable news channels is a big juicy story, not how chatty or "down" the middle-aged, overly-coiffed anchors sound. When the story goes away, so do the ratings. That proves that people tune in to 24-hour news channels when they are looking for information.

It seems odd, then, that news, just news, is becoming harder to find on cable. Cable channels, underestimating the very viewers they're trying to attract, are coming off like that desperate high school teacher who tried in vain to be "cool."

# STEVE EARLE

## AND THE DUKES

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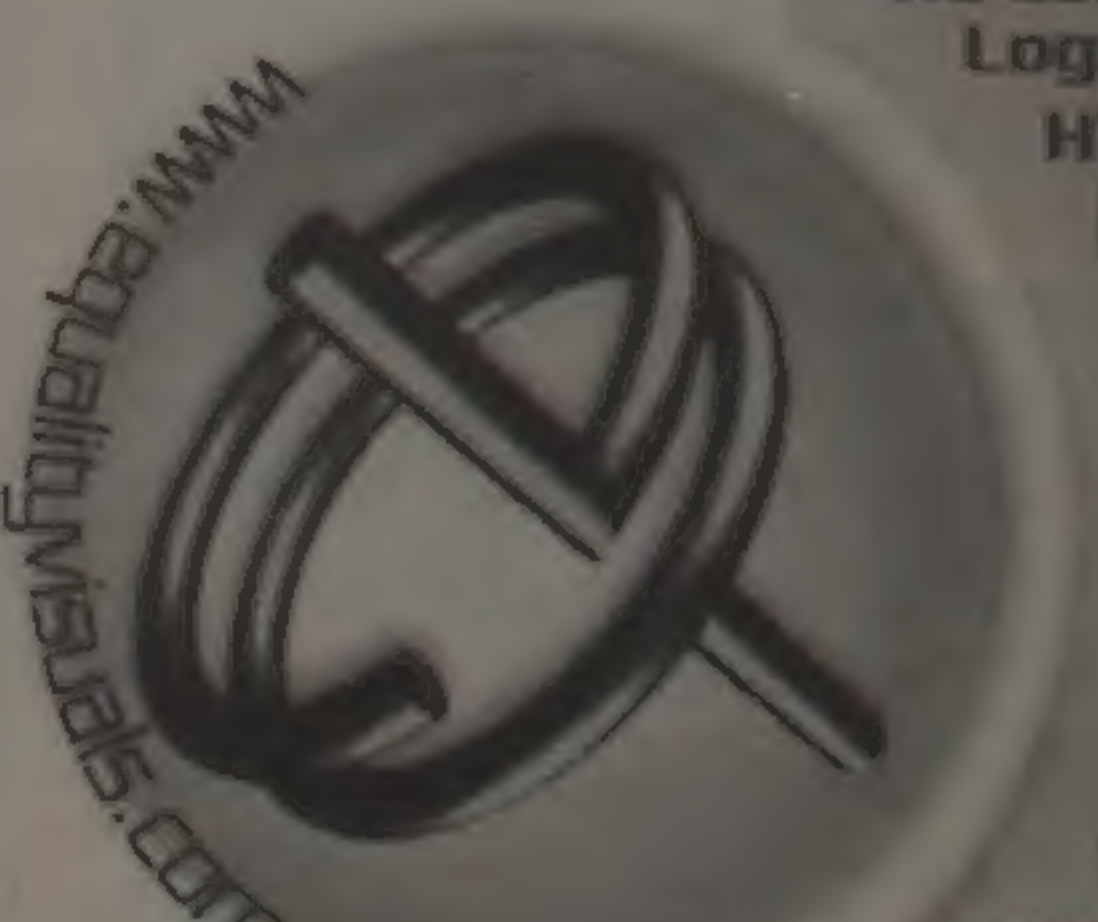
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# VUE NEWS

## ENVIRONMENT

### The Bjørns of a dilemma

COPENHAGEN—There's been no shortage of international skepticism about Danish professor Bjørn Lomborg since he wrote *The Skeptical Environmentalist*. The book, published in English in 2001 by Cambridge University Press, initially garnered global praise for dispelling the "myths" being propagated by "doomsday" environmentalists. The *National Post* wrote that "Eco-optimism can begin to rise over the Earth. After Lomborg, the environmental movement will begin to wither."

After a strong wave of approval washed over Lomborg, however, the critics spoke out. He was attacked worldwide by scientists who charged that Lomborg was supporting his argument—to wit, that environmentalists are sending out premature alarms because the planet really is in decent shape—by using selective scientific examples. Among the responses was a long, detailed critique in *Scientific American*; essentially, critics were concerned that Lomborg's book, which analyzed data on forests, climate change, food supplies and other issues, was providing false ammunition for conservative ideologues.

That didn't matter to Denmark's conservative government, which appointed Lomborg the director of its new Institute for Environmental Assessment, a position that entails reviewing the effectiveness of government spending on environmental initiatives. But last week, another arm of government, the Danish Research Agency's Committees on Scientific Dishonesty, after a six-month review of *The Skeptical Environmentalist*, released a 17-page report about the book. "Objectively speaking," the report concludes, "the publication of the work under consideration is deemed to fall within the concept of scientific dishonesty.... The publication is deemed clearly contrary to the standards of good scientific practice."

Although it stopped short of a full condemnation, the report should finally end the lingering bickering about the significance of Lomborg's work. "The environment is a field where, when people do some light calculations like Lomborg did, it's easy to argue for a happy-times kind of conclusion," Peter H. Raven, president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, reacted to the *New York Times*. "This is a just outcome that ought to bring his credibility to a halt except for those who desperately want to believe what he says." —DAN RUBINSTEIN

### Pass the salt

OTTAWA—During the winter, millions of tons of road salt are poured onto highways and streets across Canada.

But a recently-completed five-year study by Environment Canada suggests that these salts pose significant risks to land and ocean.

Now the feds are looking at a plan to change the way we prevent our vehicles from slipping and sliding. Environment Canada has given itself a December 1 deadline to develop and propose a plan that will lessen the harm road salts have on plants, animals and aquatic life.

The study, which was completed in 2001 but has only recently been given the green light for public release, warns that millions of tons of such nasties as ferrocyanide salts, sodium chloride, calcium chloride, potassium chloride and magnesium chloride are being released into the water table each and every winter.

When chloride-polluted water permeates the land, it can make the soil lose stability and lose the ability to pass nutrients to vegetation. And if high chloride levels contaminate a wetland, then there is a good chance that marsh vegetation, such as reeds, will die off—destroying food, habitat and ecosystems. "Road salts may also affect wildlife habitat," the report adds, "with reduction in plant cover or shifts in communities that could affect wildlife dependent on these plants for food or shelter." —STEVEN SANDOR

## JUSTICE

### Just sue it

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Supreme Court is stepping into the long-simmering debate over Nike's use of Asian sweatshop labour to make its shoes.

America's top court last week agreed to listen to Nike's appeal of a California Supreme Court ruling that determined the company's defence of its labour practices was "commercial speech" and therefore not entitled to First Amendment protection under the U.S. Constitution. In effect, the U.S. Supreme Court will decide whether

Nike can be sued for false advertising.

The case dates back to 1998, when California anti-Nike activist Marc Kasky filed a civil suit against Nike alleging that the sporting-goods giant intentionally misled the public about the working conditions endured by mostly female labourers at factories in Vietnam, China and Indonesia. Kasky's suit charged that women in Nike factories experienced physical and sexual abuse, couldn't earn "living wages" despite 14-hour days—and that Nike's response to widespread questions about these conditions, a public relations and ad campaign in which the company billed itself as a "model of corporate responsibility," broke the law.

"No company should feel impeded from engaging in the marketplace of ideas just because they operate in the marketplace of goods," one of Nike's lawyers, Walter Dellinger, said to Reuters when the Supreme Court agreed to hear the appeal. "The lawsuit specifically describes numerous factual misrepresentations Nike made to the public about the labour practices in the factories that manufacture its shoes," countered Alan Caplan, one of Kasky's lawyers. "These misrepresentations were not part of any political debate, but were made by Nike to encourage consumers to buy a pair of its shoes."

With support from several business and media groups, Nike is arguing that the California ruling should not stand because it affects not only advertising but also corporate comments reported in newspapers. But as another of Kasky's lawyers, Patrick Coughlin, said to Reuters, "There is no constitutional right to dupe consumers."

Supreme Court arguments will begin in the spring and a ruling is expected by the end of June. —DAN RUBINSTEIN

## PORN

### Une liaison pornographique

ALBERTA—Now here's something you probably didn't know unless you're a big fan of deviant pornography: appar-

ently, Alberta has become the place in Canada to sell explicit sex films that would be illegal anywhere else in the country, thanks to our province's total lack of a film regulatory structure.

According to a recent article in the *Calgary Herald*, videos or DVDs depicting coercion into a sexual act, people portraying minors in explicit sex scenes, bondage, urinating for sexual gratification, incest and extreme brutality or torture cannot be sold in pretty much any province because of fairly reasonable restrictions placed on film releases by provincial regulatory bodies. But since Alberta has never bothered to organize such a body, filmmakers who can't distribute their art anywhere else ship crates and crates of it here to offset their losses.

Currently, Alberta has in place a provincial body concerned with film classification, but all their job really entails is indicating that porno films are rated X, and enforcing that the adult videos are segregated from the mainstream videos in stores that carry both. So why does Alberta allow the graphic depiction of illegal acts to be sold within its borders? Well, geez, man; that would be a lot of hard work that the province just doesn't feel like doing. "We don't feel that it's necessary to put these things on fast-forward, to have government employees sitting here all day long looking at these things when they're already classified as restricted," Sharon McCann, manager for Alberta Film Classification Services, said in an interview with the *Herald*.

McCann added that, in this Internet age of ours, pornographers can find loopholes in the system faster than governments can write it. "We will not make fools of ourselves by spending a lot of time putting out very detailed [pornography] legislation which will be outmoded by next week," she said.

So there you have it: problem is too big to fix, so Alberta's just fine with its dubious distinction as porno capital of Canada. And everyone says we're a conservative province. —CHRIS BOUTET

## MEANWHILE, IN B.C. POLITICS IT'S BEEN BUSINESS AS USUAL...



## VUEpoint

By STEVEN SANDOR

### Layton place

As the rest of Canada snoozes through the NDP leadership vote, leftist diehards will be comforted to know that two of the predicted front-runners are the kind of common-sense, manifesto-light, turn-away-from-Svend-Robinson-showboating-and-concentrate-on-real-issues politicians that the NDP hasn't had since the days of Ed Broadbent.

Saskatchewan's Lorne Nystrom is a solid candidate with a reputation as an effective debater and parliamentarian. His motions to reform parliament based on popular vote instead of the current riding system shows that he is willing to be proactive about issues, like legislative reform and Western alienation, that the NDP rarely touches.

But I have a personal interest in the other front-runner. Not only is former Toronto deputy mayor and city councillor Jack Layton the former head of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities but he also taught civic politics to a group of journalism students at Ryerson Polytechnic University. As you may have guessed, that class included yours truly.

Jack (and it was always "Jack," not "Mr. Layton") wasn't a rhetoric-beater. He showed us that civic politics was the least glamorous branch of public service, but also the one that offered the most pressure. Sure, tax hikes and constitutional debates may raise Canadian political awareness, but no federal servant has to deal with the ire of someone who didn't get their garbage picked up.

During my time in Jack's class, Toronto was in the midst of a TTC "work to rule" campaign that slowed subway trains to a standstill every five or so minutes. The city was also searching for a new dump, and its satellite communities had taken a defiant NIMBY stance. A decade later, the issue still isn't resolved; Toronto is currently trucking its waste to Michigan—a Band-Aid solution.

Jack had an interesting take on the debate and the way urban centres interacted with their suburbs. If the suburbs were not willing to help find a dump, he suggested, maybe Toronto should require each and every suburbanite who comes into the city to work or play to carry a baggie in which to collect their garbage or a wet-bag to collect their... well, you get the picture. He said because much of the garbage located in the city came from suburban residents, those communities had a moral duty not to ignore Toronto and its search for a waste solution.

In the end, Jack's belief was that government could not succeed unless citizens took more personal responsibilities. And if he becomes the NDP's new leader, I hope he continues the same common-sense attitude and open-door policy he showed his students. ☺



## THREE DOLLAR BILL

truth and  
opinion  
about  
gay life

BY RICHARD BURNETT

## No muff too tough

I have long believed that if the right person comes along, and Mr. Right (now) happens to be a she, we could still very well end up doing the nasty. It's not bloody likely, but I won't banish the possibility—unlike most straight men who won't even fathom having sex with another guy.

"Man-on-man sex is the height of masculinity," one of my straight best

friends told me over the holiday season. Now, this guy is as queer as straights get—he truly understands what it means to be marginalized and what a privilege it is to be an outsider—but when I asked him if that also meant he could sleep with another guy, he quipped, "Hell no!"

Over the ensuing days, several other straight friends I talked to were just as emphatic. "I won't sleep with a guy because guys don't turn me on," they said. That's not because they're homophobic, they quickly added; they just happen to be straight in a bipolar world.

It got me thinking. Why is it I can at least *imagine* having sex with a woman, but hetero guys can't even wrap their minds around the mere idea of sleeping with a man?

So I found a June 2002 University of Arkansas study that states homophobia is in fact *not* a phobia because it's caused by disgust and not fear or anxiety. The study's 138 participants answered surveys measuring homophobia, fear, anxiety, disgust and "contamination obsessions" and concluded that homophobia is in fact closer to racism than it is to a phobia.

In other words, most straight folks are simply disgusted by "gay" sex.

"Mainstream people dislike homosexuality because they can't help concentrating on what homosexual men do to one another," the late, great British writer Quentin Crisp once famously said. "And when you contemplate what people do, you think of yourself doing it and they don't like that. It's like the famous joke, 'I don't like peas and I'm glad I don't like them because if I liked them I would eat them and I hate them.'"

(Don't get me wrong: faggots can be hypocrites too. They adore their oversized divas like singer Martha Wash but they won't look twice at the fat guy sitting alone at the bar.)

When I asked a gay best friend why gay guys are less inclined to balk at sleeping with a chick than hetero guys are over screwing another guy, he instantly said, "Straight men identify with male strength. Their masculinity is all about power and control but in gay male sexuality there is the position of submission. So I think it's about giving up power.

"But," my friend quickly added, "I

don't know if I could sleep with a woman unless I was in a threesome."

In this straight man's world, clearly women remain stuck at the bottom of the totem pole. Gay men are barely a notch above because, well, they're bottoms too. But is *seeming* gay as bad as being gay? "If homosexuality wasn't discouraged, most of human history would have been nothing more than a man leaning against a wall in the back room of a gay bar with his fly unbuttoned," British cultural critic and gay antichrist Mark Simpson cracks in his recent book *Sex Terror* (Harrington Park Press).

I know—I've slept with enough "straight" guys over the years to know most of them are full of shit (especially if they've never douched, but I digress).

But, seriously, is seeming gay as bad as being gay?

Not if you're writer Tom Samalijan. In last month's issue of *Esquire*, he opined, "In today's ask-and-tell world of *Will and Grace* and *Queer as Folk*, it's become more acceptable for gay and straight men to hang out without anybody getting the wrong impression. Gay guys have gotten over the myth that any

straight dude who wants to be friends is a secret homosexual, while straight guys have gotten over the suspicion that every homo wants to get into his pants."

What straight guys haven't gotten over is whether *they* want a homo getting into their pants. Which brings me to an Old Montreal fashion show I attended years ago where I first met yet another best friend, Montreal writer and performance artist Skidmore, who sat on the other side of the catwalk. I couldn't take my eyes off her Skidness, what with her emerald green eyes, redhead buzzcut, navy pinstripe suit and tie, looking like a cross between Annie Lennox and the Joker. She was stunning.

Every time she caught me staring, I'd look away. Later she came up to me and said, "I had more fun watching you watching me than watching the fashion show."

Years later, I told Skid that one night I actually dreamt she was fucking me in the shower. "You were wearing a strap-on dildo," I said, to which she replied, "I damn well hope so!"

Which goes to prove that, at the end of the day, it's all about getting fucked. ☺

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AUTHOR J.R.R. TOLKIEN INSISTED HIS TALES WERE NOT ALLEGORIES ... Except, he conceded that the Hobbits represent hopeless fantasy nerds!

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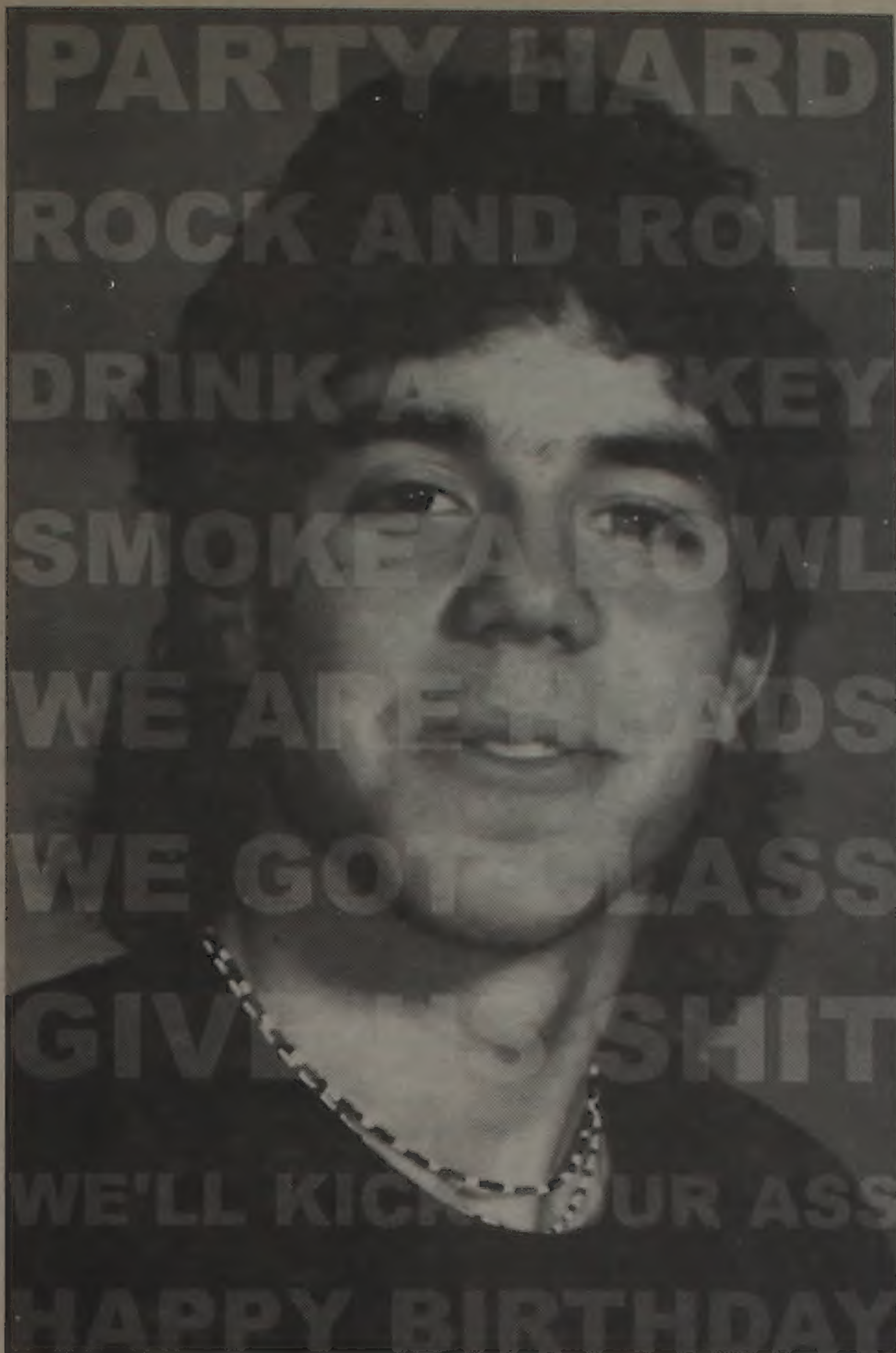
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## A U.S./Iraq timeline

Yesterday's enemy is tomorrow's friend. Unfortunately, come tomorrow, Iraq will still probably be the enemy of the United States. Why? The U.S. says Saddam Hussein is evil. (Iraq, on the other hand, says George Bush is evil.) But above and beyond Hussein, the western world really likes oil. And people who make money off oil, well, they *really* like the money. People who sell arms to quarrelling countries like the big dough too, especially if the winners will share their resources—for instance, oil.

Here's a timeline of the tumultuous relationship between the U.S. and Iraq since the start of the '80s.

**1980 to 1988:** Iran and Iraq fight a long, bitter war over land and conflicting ideologies and more than a million people die. Both the U.S. and USSR assist and arm Iraq.

**March 16, 1988:** Saddam Hussein's administration uses chemical weapons against Kurds at Halabja in Iraq. More than 5,000 die.

**August 1990:** Iraq seizes Kuwait.

**1991 to 2000:** The U.S. delivers \$74 billion (U.S.) worth of military equipment, services and training to countries in the Middle East.

**January 16, 1991:** The Gulf War starts. A U.S.-led coalition begins air strikes against Iraq. Allied planes bomb Iraq; Kuwait's liberation begins. The U.S. bombs 676 schools, 52 community centres, civilian highway traffic, a baby milk powder factory, water-treatment centres, apartment buildings and bomb shelters. In 1992, an international war crimes tribunal finds American General Norman Schwarzkopf and his fellow defendants guilty of 19 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for their roles in the war.

**January 20, 1991:** CBS's *60 Minutes* interviews Sarkis Soghanalian, a man who describes official and unofficial American involvement in the buildup of arms in Iraq. He talks about the U.S. supplying Hussein after the end of the Iran-Iraq war in 1988, despite a worldwide embargo. (Britain, Brazil, France, Germany and Russia also made some "sweet" deals with Iraq.) According to federal court documents, Soghanalian had been dealing with U.S. intelligence agencies for decades.

**April 6, 1991:** Iraq accepts a UN resolution to stop producing weapons of mass destruction and to allow monitoring by the UN special commission inspection team (UNSCOM). Negotiations between Iraq and the UN flip-flop, with inspectors going in and out to this day.

**September 1996:** A little fly called a screw worm, indigenous to the Americas, somehow finds its way to northern Iraq, spreading foot and mouth disease throughout the country. Coincidentally, a veterinary plant and a major manufacturer of a vaccine for foot and mouth disease was closed by UNSCOM (now UNMOVIC, the Monitoring, Verification and Inspec-

tion Commission) in 1995. As well, a factory in Sudan exporting foot and mouth medication to Iraq was bombed in 1998. Both factories, according to the U.S., were making chemical weapons agents.

**August 1996:** The UN Sub-Commission on Human Rights designates depleted uranium (DU) as a weapon of mass destruction. After the Gulf War, American veterans were being diagnosed with cancers and ailments because of exposure to DU. The children of American veterans and children in Iraq are born with significant physical deformities and health problems. Doctors' jobs in the U.S. are threatened if they recognize the so-called "Gulf War Syndrome" while Washington proclaims that DU was "only very, very mildly reactive." Canada is responsible for the mining of the uranium that shielded the bullets and bombs that were used in Iraq and Kosovo.

**December 16-19, 1998:** Operation Desert Fox begins: four days of American and British air strikes against Iraqi weapons programs.

**November 1998 to May 1999:** Iraq is permitted to sell a limited amount of oil to raise money for essential needs. The percentage allocation of Iraq's oil revenues under the UN's so-called oil-for-food program are as follows: 2.2 per cent for UN operational costs, 1.8 per cent for servicing charges, 53 per cent for humanitarian supplies in south and central Iraq, 13 per cent for humanitarian supplies for the northern Kurdish areas of Iraq, 30 per cent for a compensation fund to Kuwait. More than 46 per cent of the oil is exported to the U.S. According to the U.S. Department of Energy's 2002 outlook, world oil consumption is expected to grow from 75 million barrels per day in 1999 to 119 million barrels per day in 2020.

**April 22, 2002:** The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) votes to oust its Brazilian director general, José Bustani, who had just been sworn in for an extended reign. A crisis meeting was called by the U.S. after Bustani implored Iraq to join the OPCW, which would have compelled Iraq to disclose information on its chemical and biological weapon systems and submit to inspections by other member states.

**November 2002:** The former head of the CIA, Jim Woolsey, suggests Americans might drive more fuel-efficient cars in order to reduce their dependency on Middle Eastern oil.

**December 2002:** Iraq presents a 12,000-page dossier on its programs for weapons of mass destruction and is met with skepticism from the U.S. and Britain. Baghdad then invites the CIA to come and track down the declared weapons of mass destruction. The UN admits to finding holes in the report but says western intelligence agencies have done little to help.

**January 6, 2003:** Saddam Hussein says he is ready for war, accuses UN weapons inspectors of being spies and calls his enemies the "friends and helpers of Satan." Thus far, UN inspectors have found no "smoking guns" and allegations of ties between Hussein and al-Qaida have not been proven. —SHERYLE CARLSON



## Calgary doctor/activist David Swann gives news from the other side of Iraq

By TERRY PARKER

The streets of Baghdad are clogged with cyclists, pedestrians, smog-feeding old cars, homeless children hawking candy and shoeshines and beggars looking for pocket change. Only about half of Iraq's more than 22 million people have access to electricity and sanitation. There is a profound lack of medicinal drugs, trained health-care workers and basic hospital supplies. Many children are born below normal birth weight and the rate of childhood death has skyrocketed due to pollution, preventable illness, malnutrition and contaminated food and water.

This is the "superpower" George

W. Bush would have us fear. Calgary's Dr. David Swann witnessed the other side of Iraq during a four-week humanitarian visit in November and December. His second visit in as many years, Swann used up his vacation time to document the wretched state of Iraqi society and then educate Canadians about a reality they do not see on CNN, in the *Globe and Mail* or other mainstream media, most of whose coverage of Iraq revolves around the inevitability of war.

"Sanctions have been an abysmal failure," Swann said in an

## news

interview with *Vue*. "The people resent us now. There is growing hatred there that will fuel increased terrorism toward the West. We cannot expect anything but further hatred and violence."

Swann made headlines in October when he was fired by the Palliser Health Authority after publicly

supporting the Kyoto accord to curb greenhouse gas emissions, a position contrary to that of the Alberta government which, indirectly, paid Swann's salary. Palliser offered him his job back after suffering a huge national backlash but Swann declined. He is still medical officer of health for the Headwaters Health Authority.

## Tending one's Gordon

As part of a two-doctor team representing Physicians for Global Survival and Médecins du Monde, Swann spent a month in Baghdad and nearby rural communities to gauge Iraq's ability to withstand an American or international invasion. He found a government which, according to a recent article in *Harper's* by journalist Joy Gordon, is desperately hamstrung by a decade-old comprehensive system of sanctions that has become politicized by United States' foreign policy.

Gordon, an American professor who studied the issue for three years, states that according to documents and interviews with UN sources, the U.S. thwarts Iraq from satisfying its most basic humanitarian needs by claiming that many import products could be used to make weapons and wage war. As a result, water and sewer systems, along with hospitals and other government facilities, are crumbling. "U.S. policymakers have effectively turned a program of international governance into a legitimized act of mass slaughter," she wrote in the November 2002 *Harper's*. In other words, the United States is using sanctions as a weapon of mass destruction against Iraq.

Swann, who has done his own research on Iraqi sanctions, concurs with Gordon. He says the UN finally allowed Iraq legally to sell oil in 1996 under its Food for Oil program. Under the program, nearly one third of oil revenue must go to Kuwaiti reparations and the other two thirds must go to domestic



Kids aren't shy about approaching foreigners at a street café where men gather to smoke water pipes and play dominoes



food, medicine and infrastructure. But chronic delays within the UN have prevented approval of billions of dollars' worth of goods from entering Iraq. As of last summer, he said, more than \$5 billion in goods was still on hold.

### Swann's way

Swann, who was in Edmonton last weekend, is currently on a two-week speaking tour across Canada to plead for help for the destitute families he met in Iraq. Before 1991, Iraq provided free education and health care to its citizens. Jobs were plentiful and homeless few, he says. Saddam Hussein aroused widespread condemnation by invading Kuwait in 1991 and paid the price through an allied invasion. Iraqis know part of their suffering stems from the actions of their leader, even though few dare to criticize him publicly.

"One or two people had the courage to say they wanted him gone but that a heart attack would be best," says Swann. "It's there in their silence. He is a vicious dictator." But even American government officials now admit the Gulf War was about protecting oil and not social justice. So Iraq's more than 22 million citizens—half of whom are under 20 years old—must suffer through a political bully match between Hussein and U.S. president George W. Bush and the punishing sanctions that have resulted. "It looks like we want to damage the whole Muslim world," Swann continues. "That's what people told me, that they were deeply offended that democracies would treat them this way because



Dr. Swann joins an Iraqi family for a photo outside a mosque

of one man."

People who endure extended poverty, ill health, joblessness and economic strangulation are more likely to transform resentment into violent action, Swann warns. Hussein is already exploiting their dissatisfaction. If politics, religion and fear prevent them from deposing Hussein, they will find other targets for their wrath.

Instead of escalating the tensions, the international community, led by the UN, must stop threatening and start talking, Swann says. And this dialogue

ought to be between Western nations and the Middle East region so as not to further isolate Iraq. "There are things that can be done and UN processes in place to do that," he says. "Their suffering is obvious. To think we would add to that misery with war when there are alternatives keeps me riveted to this issue." ☐

*You can learn more about Swann's experiences in Iraq and the organizations he represents by going to <http://swann.activist.ca>.*

### Marching against inertia

It's Friday, January 10 and the headlines today are troubling. Canada's defence minister, John McCallum, is meeting with his counterpart Donald Rumsfeld in Washington and has given the strongest indication yet that Canada will join an American-led attack on Iraq—even if the mission proceeds without the UN's blessing. "We much prefer that," McCallum said about providing military support with the UN calling the shots, "but we may do it otherwise."

On the surface, it's just a subtle shift, because nothing is certain yet. But earlier assurances from both Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham that Canada would only support a UN-approved campaign have now been contradicted. Whatever opportunity Canada had to differentiate itself, even slightly, from the American political, economic and military steamroller appears to be slipping away. And with the United States enacting a pair of deployment orders last weekend that will see a force of 150,000 assembled in the Persian Gulf by the end of February, it's clear what the U.S. has in mind.

Longtime Edmonton activist Glen McLean knows how strongly Canada is pulled by American inertia. But he doesn't believe our path has been fully charted. "In some ways, we

agree with Bush," says McLean, one of many organizers behind a local peace march and rally on Saturday, January 18, Edmonton's contribution to International Day of Action anti-war events taking place throughout Canada, the U.S. and Europe. "You're either for war or against it," says McLean, "and now is the time for people to decide."

McLean feels ordinary citizens can still have an impact on decisions made in Ottawa. If the feds get the message that they're not representing the majority of Canadians—provided vocal dissenters are a large and loud enough percentage of the population—then they may alter their course. "Your guess is as good as mine," McLean says about the likelihood of protest having even an eventual, indirect bearing on Canadian foreign policy. "But the war in Vietnam was stopped because of public opinion. The Berlin Wall came down. South Africa dropped the apartheid system."

Edmonton's last omnibus anti-war protest drew more than 600 people to Old Strathcona on a Saturday afternoon in mid-November. It also prompted the mid-December meeting where the Edmonton Coalition Against War and Racism was formed. Comprised of a couple dozen different organizations, from social justice and student groups to religious groups and labour and political organizations, the coalition

represents the diversity of today's peace movement, according to McLean. He thinks up to 2,000 people could come out on the 18th—people from an economic as well as ethnic cross-section of the city.

The goals of the action, likewise, are multiple. McLean says the intention is to raise more general awareness among ordinary citizens, shine some light on the erosion of democratic liberties we're experiencing, and spur Ottawa to bring an end to Canadian preparations for war. "It's so disgusting how our society and media have talked about getting ready for war in the last couple of months," he says about an attack that the U.S. knows will kill Iraqi civilians. "Like it's another Olympics or something. Treating it like entertainment. It's obscene."

"This is not so much a political issue but an issue that reaches into the bones of every human being," continues McLean. "There's a profound immorality going on." ☐ — DAN RUBINSTEIN

*The march on Saturday, January 18 begins at 1 p.m. at the U of A's Corbett Hall (at 112 Street and Whyte Avenue). It will move east down Whyte to 104 Street, then north to Gazebo Park for speeches and a rally. For more information, phone 463-3748.*



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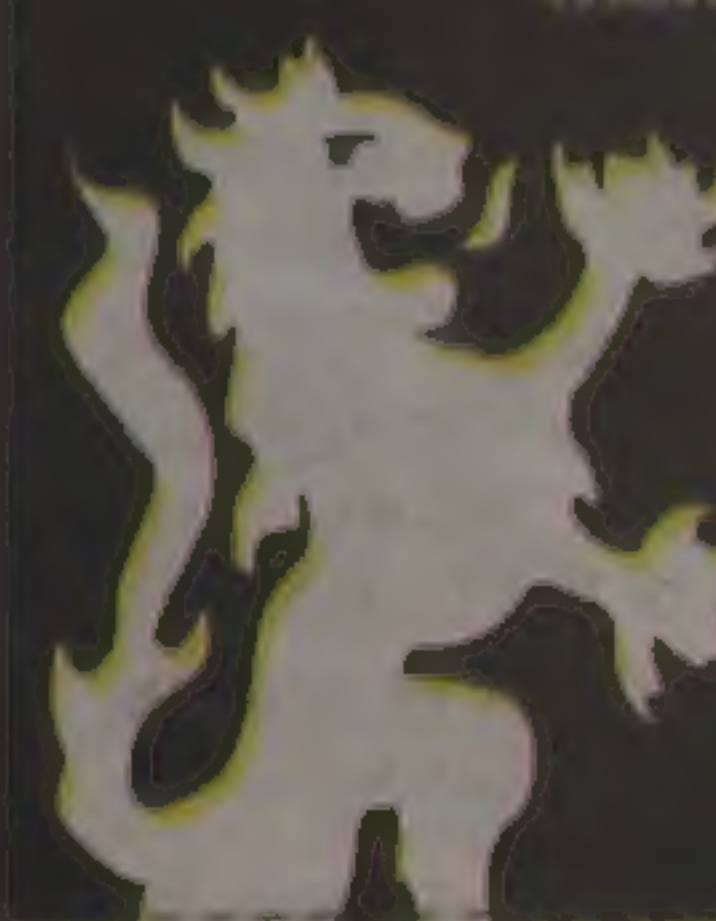
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# Happy new year!

There's no need to be wary of Jasper in January

By COLIN CATHREA

**T**he sound of sand and dirt hitting the car was getting loud. Jasper Lake is dry as a bone and the wind was blowing at around 50 km/h.

This wind, however, would turn out to be our saving grace. It's mid-January and the start of the annual festival they call

**Jasper in January**, a three-week event during which all of Jasper's hotels, restaurants and recreational hosts join forces to create one big celebration of winter. I was invited up to get a first-hand look at how things were proceeding, considering the weather we've had so far. The barren valley, totally void of snow at the park gates, was disheartening, but as we pulled into the beautiful Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge our spirits lifted immediately. Skaters were rounding the smooth lake ice. It was Ukrainian New Year's and the Great Hall was full of revelers. After a few Bolshevik beverages, it was off to the cozy cabin for some shut-eye.

The temperature dropped

overnight and -19°C was a brutal morning shock. How could the damn weather be above zero for weeks on end, then drop an Arctic front onto our party? We headed down the valley and as I looked up towards Marmot I saw the white blanket awaiting. As I made the climb up to the resort, the thermometer in the truck kept climbing as well, and by the time we stepped out into the bright sunshine it was

ers have managed to trap and groom a decent base. It's very skiable and we had a good time up on the Knob, avoiding most of the hazards as we cruised Dromedary and Chalet Slope. The Dupres Chutes were almost perfect. I noticed a big slab avalanche had come down Charlie's Bowl, so I talked to mountain manager Rob Ford about the snow-pack. Ford told me the snow is so old and has

cycled through so many temperatures that it's actually rotting—and unpacked terrain will slide if you look at it the wrong way.

Accordingly, he didn't recommend anybody doing any back-country touring anywhere.

## Let it rot

Next, I walked over to the edge of Eagles East to see how the glading operations went this spring. You can definitely see a lot more open terrain from here, and with more tree removal scheduled for this spring there are tons of expert terrain available in an area that is a veritable snow trap which may offer some of the best glade skiing in the Rockies. Marketing manager Brian Rode

SEE NEXT PAGE

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18 degrees warmer. Those winds from the night before very obligingly provided the necessary elements for the temperature inversion process to take place—the wind is pushed up the mountains before it drops into the final valley and onto the prairies. As it rises, it gets compressed, and the heat it generates drops into the basin. The cold air stays low, while we remain up in the temperate zone. Keep this in mind when you plan your own Jasper in January excursion—Edmonton temperatures don't mean a thing up here.

The season definitely started slow, but thanks to a few consistent dumps, the expert snow farm-



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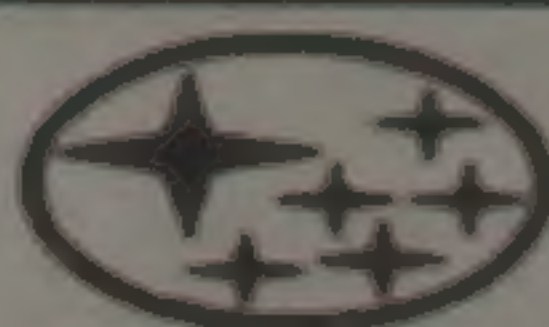
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By HART GOLBECK

## Media jungle

Marmot Basin's 12th annual Media Challenge took place last weekend with 50 local media types challenging the mini-giant slalom course. Once again, *Vue Weekly* placed more than respectably in the standings, as Colin (Zeke) Cathrea took home top spot with a blazing time of 24.85 seconds. Yours truly finished sixth, a mere 1.5 seconds behind. Other notables like DJs Jake Daniels and Todd James came in 28th and 37th respectively. The A-Channel's *Big Breakfast* team had a rough ride as Mark Schultz placed 36th and Stephen Antle finished dead last. Antle did take home some hardware, however, as he registered the best crash of the day. The A-Channel practically owns that category, by the way—Schultz won it a couple of years ago when he skidded out of control and completely destroyed the finish line's protective fencing.

## Four days at Fortress

Effective immediately, Fortress Mountain, located in the Kananaskis Valley, has reduced its operating days to Thursday to Sunday. During the off days, season pass-holders can ride at

## Jasper in January

*Continued from previous page*

obviously has his work cut out for him this season; good news travels slower than bad in this industry, and when Edmonton is brown, people tend to stay home. But Rode says that when people come up expecting poor conditions only to see how great the hill looks, most are pleasantly surprised. Marmot also deserves credit for being the most honest ski resort when it comes to reporting its conditions, never overstating the snow reports (as some resorts do). The base is hard and with one good storm, the terrain should be covered and conditions will be excellent.

Once you've left the hill, try to

Nakiska, which remains fully operational. Fortress will return to normal hours once the school holidays hit in February and they get some serious precipitation. One thing's for certain: three days of grooming and untracked powder will make for some awesome Thursday riding.

## Twisting gold

Canada's Jeff Bean captured his second gold medal of the season in a World Cup freestyle aerials competition. Bean laid down a flawless quad-twisting triple somersault to capture the crown. Grande Prairie's Ryan Blais was a surprising third, edging out Steve Omischl for his first podium finish.

## Maier can ski

Hermann Maier has returned to the slopes after a one-and-a-half-year absence following a motorcycle crash. Austria's fearless giant slalom racer, nicknamed the Herminator, has returned to the slopes and is hoping just to post some good times. Just a couple of years ago he was untouchable, winning numerous giant slaloms and downhill races with ease. Maier severely mangled his leg in the bike crash and required pins, screws and skin grafts to repair the damage, but all appears well and he is ready to return to the circuit.

## Bunny hopping

The terrain park at Rabbit Hill continues to add new toys, keeping it miles ahead of other terrain parks in Alberta. The latest addition is a gravity rail, which should keep boarders grinding for a while. There's a halfpipe, jumps, tabletops and other rails as well. If you're heading down there, remember to strap on a brain bucket, as they're mandatory in the park this year. ☺

take in some of the many events the Ski Jasper consortia has arranged. From parades, wine and cheese parties, the annual chili cook-off and pub crawls, the festival has something for everyone. One of my favourite events is the Mountain to Valley Race, a five-stage relay includes downhill skiing, a car relay, a run, cross-country skiing and biking. I'm also a big fan of Taste of the Town, during which more than 20 restaurants and spirit stores allow you to sample specialty dishes from grilled elk bratwurst to sushi. If you haven't stayed at the Jasper Park Lodge, which can get pricy in the summer, this is a perfect opportunity to do so. There are plenty of deals on cheap lift tickets and cheap hotels with lots of extras, so book now or find out more at [www.skijaspercanada.com](http://www.skijaspercanada.com). ☺

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## Smaller can be better

Who needs size when you're a resort with endless amounts of snow?

By STEVEN KENWORTHY

**W**ith almost all of Alberta's resorts hurting for snow so far this winter, a trip to the B.C. Interior last week to check out

Whitewater Winter Resort couldn't have come at a better time.

Best known for its legendary powder, endless backcountry possibilities and laid-back attitude, Whitewater is everything a small resort should be. Friendly staff, a cool old day lodge and a hippie-trippy local flavour give Whitewater a funky, down-to-earth feel that really can't be compared to anyplace else. It's got the kind of character that bigger resorts can only strive for—and the sort of prices (\$40 for an

adult day pass) that big resorts should be striving for.

As great as all that may be, you have to remember Whitewater is Small with a capital S. There are

area

no on-hill accommodations, no public telephones and the entire horseshoe-shaped valley the resort sits in the centre of is serviced by a pair of ancient two-seater chair-

lifts. The Silver King Chair, the shorter of the two, runs up the north side of the bowl and handles the bulk of the beginner and intermediate terrain. The Summit Chair takes you up the south slope and into steeper terrain but it's still only 1,300 feet vertical. There is plenty of natural terrain for jibbing on, but no formal terrain park of any sort.

Nevertheless, Whitewater can still lay claim to being one of Canada's best resorts due its abundance of the one commodity that makes the entire skiing world tick: snow. This little pocket of the Selkirk Mountains averages 50 feet of the stuff annually. The powder is so good and plentiful here that many locals won't bother making the trip up to the mountain if there's not at least a bit of fresh stuff.

Last week's trip, unfortunately, took place during the "January bluebirds," as my ski school coordinator Logan (is that your first name or last name or both?) called it. They were definitely bluebird days, with crisp temperatures and nothing but blue sky. There hadn't been any new snow for the last four or five days, so most of the locals were at home. But there were still a few fresh turns to find if you looked hard enough.

The prospect of taking a hike into Whitewater's backcountry beckons from the top of either lift. Just to get some of the areas in bounds, you have to do a bit of walking, so going a little further almost seems natural. Because so

many people do take advantage of the backcountry, the danger of avalanches is taken very seriously. Beacons and shovels are standard equipment with all the locals and a barrage of signs keep you alert as you leave the resort's boundaries.

### No basins for comparison

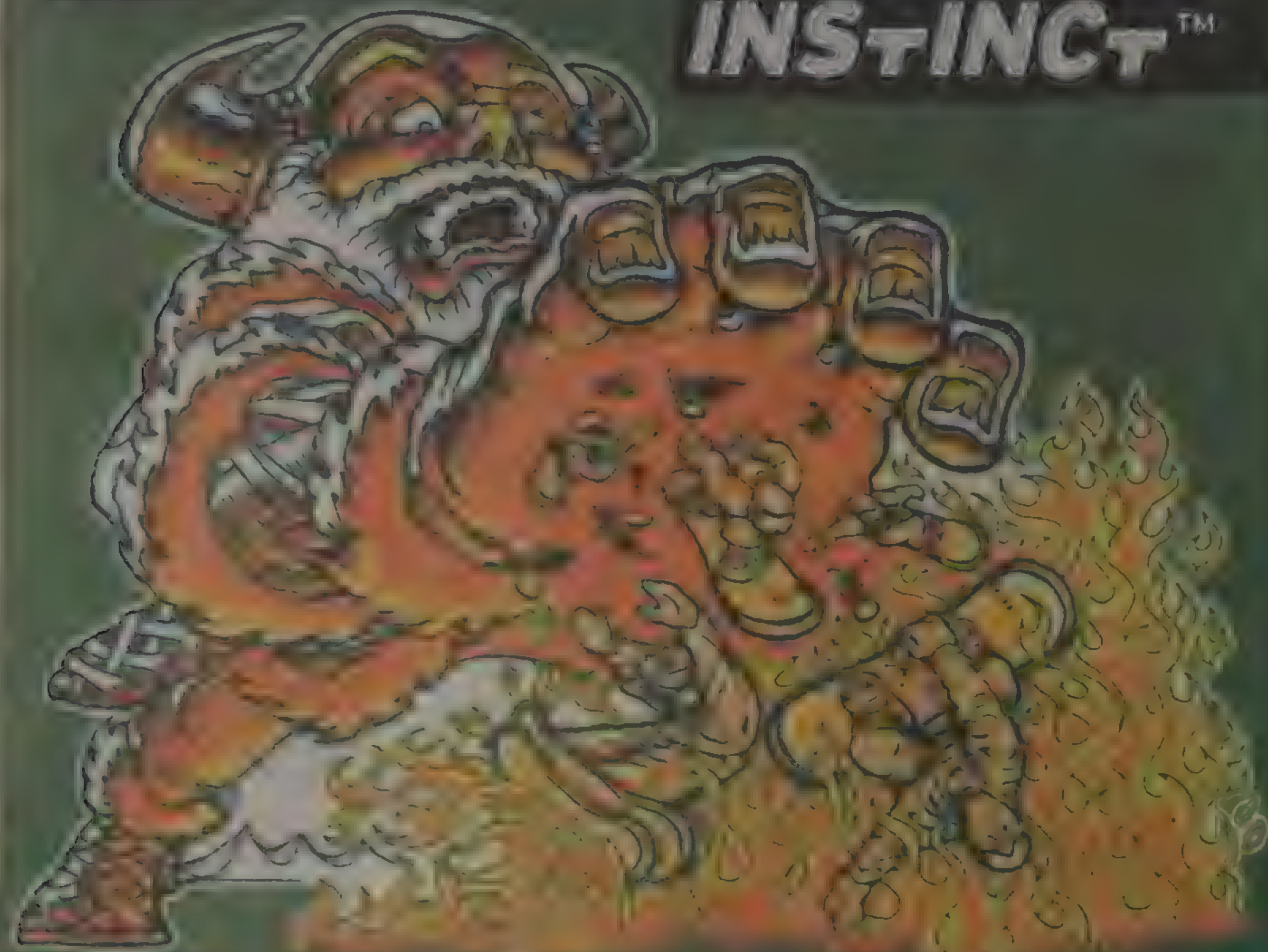
During my trip, almost all the main runs were either groomed flat or full of bumps and chop from too much traffic, but there was a bit of untracked snow in Glory Basin and Catch Basin. Both are accessible from the top of the Summit Chair with Catch Basin taking you east and further into the horseshoe-shaped valley. Glory Basin is located right along the resort's boundary and is accessed by going west: By going past Glory Basin and over a nearby ridge, you can ski all the way down to the access road and add another 1,000 feet of vertical to your run but you'll be hitchhiking to get back to the lifts.

The cross-country skiing at Whitewater has improved considerably this year with the addition of 20 kilometres of new groomed and track set trails. The trails came into being through a partnership between the resort and Kalesnikoff Lumber Company. Selective logging, which maintained the visual and ecological integrity of the area, was carried out to create rolling trails that have beautiful views of the surrounding Selkirk and Monashee Ranges.

The nearest major centre to Whitewater is Nelson, about 15 minutes to the north. Hostels and historic buildings populate Nelson's downtown area, which oozes as much character as Whitewater does. From Edmonton, the natural route to Whitewater is to get on Highway 1 at Lake Louise and head west over the Rogers Pass to Revelstoke and then south to Nelson. It's a long haul that takes you through some of the snowiest areas in southern B.C., so set aside a full day for travel if you're coming straight from Edmonton. ☐

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# The EASYRIDER Condition Report

## Local

Rabbit Hill - 60cm base, 7cm of new snow All lifts & 90% of runs open  
 Snow Valley - 60cm base, 4cm of snow, All lifts open  
 Sunridge - 60cm base, 4cm of new snow, 10 runs and 6 lifts open

## Alberta

Sunshine - 103cm base, 15cm of snow in the last 4 days, 12 lifts 86 runs open  
 Lake Louise - 97cm base, 8cm of snow in the past 4 days, All lifts open  
 C.O.P - 100cm base, 0cm of snow,  
 Wintergreen - 81cm base, 0cm of new snow, Opening Feb 1  
 Fortress - 40-75cm base, 2cm of new snow, 16/47 runs open  
 Marmot/Jasper - 60cm base, 5cm of new snow, 55/75 runs 6/8 lifts  
 Nakiska - 54cm base, 2cm of new snow, 4 lifts 12/28 runs  
 Mt. Norquay - 75cm base, 2cm of snow in the past 7 days 12/28 runs, 4/5 lifts  
 Castle Mt. - 132cm base, 10cm of snow in the past 7 days, 29/59 runs

## B.C.

Silver Star - 143cm base, 27cm of snow, 7 lifts and 90/100 runs open  
 Big White - 145cm base, 24cm of new snow, 12/13 lifts and 107 runs open  
 Apex - 107cm base, 6cm of snow, 4 lifts and 37 runs open  
 Sun Peaks - 109cm base, 14cm of snow in the past 7 days, 9 lifts and 114 runs  
 Fernie - 173cm base, 14cm of snow in the past 3 days, 9 lifts, 104 runs  
 Kimberley - 93cm base, 14cm of snow in the past 3 days, 6 lifts, 63 runs  
 Panorama - 204cm base, 13cm of snow in the past 6 days, 10 lifts and 85+ trails open  
 Fairmont - 14cm of new snow in the past 7 days, All lifts and runs open  
 Kicking Horse - 107cm base, 5cm of snow in the past 2 days, 67/78 runs open  
 Red Mt. - 198cm base, 38cm of snow in the last 4 days 83/83 runs  
 Whitewater/Nelson - 190cm base, 26cm of snow in the past 3 days, All lifts  
 Powder Springs - 175cm base, 47cm of snow in the past 3 days, All lifts open

## U.S.A.

Big Mt - 139cm base, 7cm of new snow, 8 lifts open  
 49 North - 127cm base, 10cm of new snow, All lifts open  
 Mt Spokane - 86cm base, 0cm of snow, 80% of lifts open  
 Big Sky - 76cm base, 25cm of new snow, 18 lifts  
 Red Lodge Mt - 114cm base, 5cm of new snow  
 Schweitzer Mt - 63cm base, 5cm new snow, All trails open  
 Lookout Pass - 50cm base, 2cm of new snow, All trails open  
 Silver Mt Resort - 31cm base, 1 cm of new snow, All lifts open

All conditions accurate as of Jan.15, 2003

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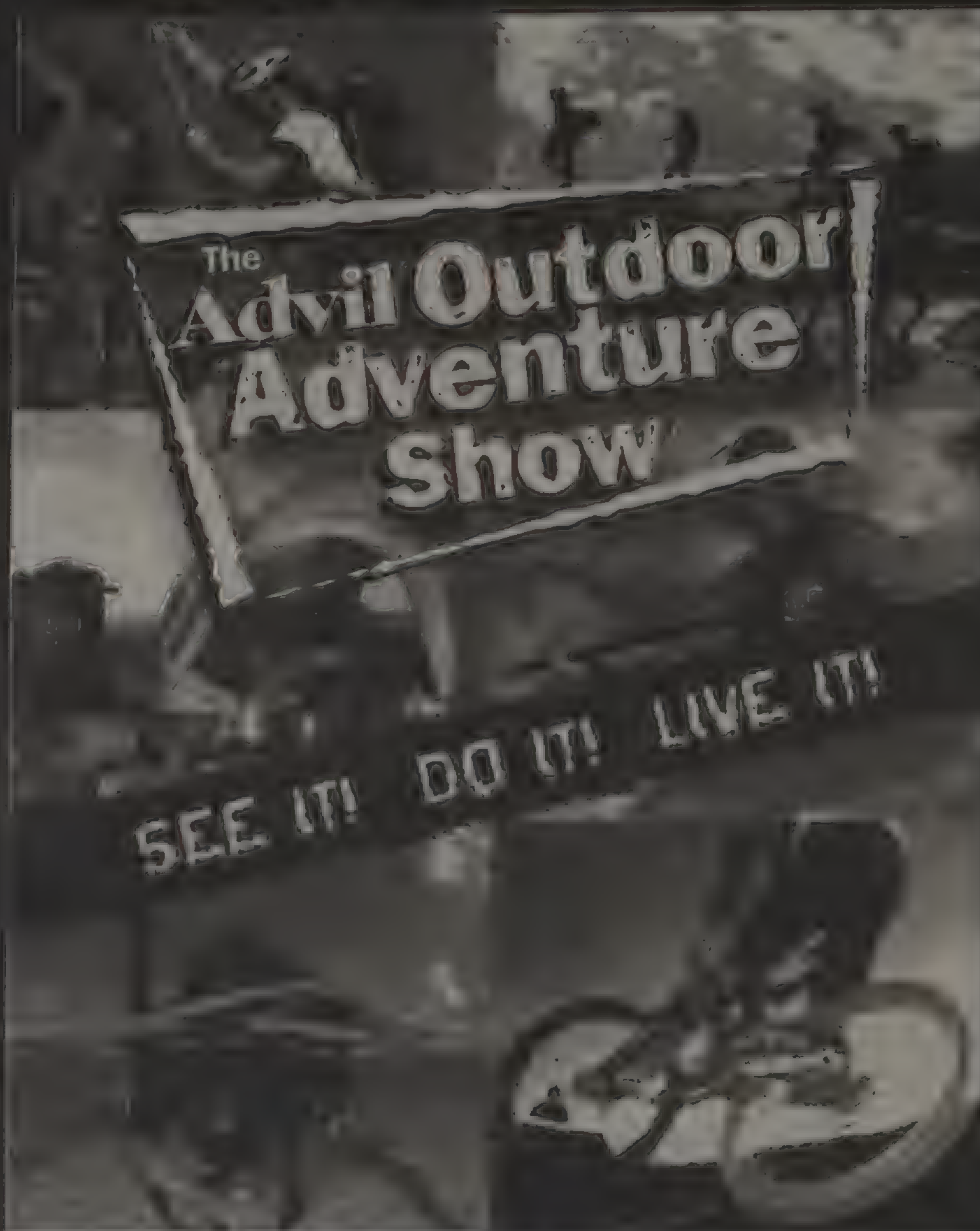
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**VUEWEEKLY**





By RICK OVERWATER

## Session player

The pro snowboarders who spend their days in the pipe and in the mountains honing their craft aren't getting paid by the hour. Most of them aren't getting paid at all. That's where sponsor salaries (for the lucky few), contest winnings (for a few more) and part-time jobs (for the vast majority) come in. So what better way to lure the world's best riders to your contest than by offering \$110,000 (U.S.) in prize money, divided into the largest single payouts of the season?

That was the Vail Valley Foundation's reasoning when they created the "The Session," a two-day jib and slopestyle contest at Vail, Colorado on Friday, January 17 and Saturday, January 18. "We want to get some of the best riders and reward them with some of the best money and start a new tradition," says

Cara Herron, director of marketing for the Vail Valley Foundation, an organization that promotes the sports and culture in the Vail area by organizing events and competitions. This is their first significant foray into the world of snowboarding, and judging by the amount of cash they and their sponsors are doling out, they're going about it correctly.

On Friday, riders will hit three different customized rails with a title prize of \$10,000 (U.S.) per rail. Saturday marks the beginning of the Super Slopestyle competition, complete with oversized big air and rail options. First place nets \$20,000 with \$15,000 and \$10,000 going to second and third respectively. "It's definitely a rider incentive," says Herron. "We just really wanted to make an impression on the sport and the community—and the payouts have something to do with that."

"It's ridiculous—that's a lot of money," says Calgary's T.J. Schneider,

who's currently staying in Whistler and riding for Capita Snowboards. Schneider is among a handful of Canucks heading down to Vail this week, including Calgarian James Beach, Leanne Pelosi and David Carrier-Porcheron.

These days, Schneider is busy filming for Mack Dawg, who's pared down his roster and increased the amount of individual footage each rider will have. That decision makes perfect sense if you've ever seen Schneider ride. Last year Schneider didn't film as much as he'd have liked, but now that he has a new pickup and a new sled (or at least it was new 'til he rolled down a mountainside a few days ago), he's getting into the backcountry where the action is. Despite all that, he professes, "I need a job."

So you'd think he'd be training hard, hoping to score some loot. "No," he laughs. "I don't really train—I just go out and play around." Perhaps he's just going down to Vail to rub shoulders with pros like J.P. Walker, Danny Kass and Travis Rice? Not to mention ride a course built by Planet Snowdesign, the company that worked on the 2002 Olympics and is known for some of the coolest custom-built rails in the States? More laughter. "No, I'm going for the money." ☺

challenging and can wear out your knees. It's wiser to maintain a good line of travel than to hit every turn around a mogul's top or to go exclusively through the ruts. My idea of a good mogul run is getting through it and onto other stuff as quickly as possible. This approach actually requires a great deal more skill and it pays off in a rush you'd never get from merely dodging the bumps. ☺

sliding on my back; it seemed the easiest and safest way down. Since that time, I hardly ever took runs that had moguls—that is, until I finally found out what it took to get over the hump.

When choosing your first mogul run to learn on, try to find one that's as soft as possible. Look for either slush or powder. Better yet, choose a run that's only partly covered with moguls so that you can try a few isolated bumps and return to smooth runs if things get a little hairy.

Your first rides can be negotiated in the ruts. Your knees' flexibility and range of motion will be tested more rapidly than in any other type of riding. Extend your knees on the crest of the turn while bending between turns. To practice for quicker turns in densely packed moguls, rely on your torso to initiate the turn sooner than normal. Exaggerate this motion until you get the hang of it. Ride the backside of the moguls' crests to pick up even more speed, though this time you'll need to flex at the apex of the turn before extending between bumps.

Long mogul runs are physically

new turn. Short turns keep your body facing downhill most of the time, while big, sweeping turns keep your upper torso more in the direction you are travelling down the hill.

In either case, your shoulders should not face in the same direction as your skis. This position creates a "wound spring" ready to uncoil and generate the energy required to bring your skis around and into the new turn. The next time you're sitting in a swivel chair behind a desk, grab the desk while keeping your upper body facing forward and swing your lower half to the side. Bring your feet up off the floor and you'll notice how your lower half will swing back to centre.

Keep this exercise in mind when you're finishing a turn on a hill and begin to unweight your downhill ski. If you're facing downhill, the spring will uncoil and bring your skis around the fall line. As they continue on their path, the coil will reload and set off the routine again. ☺



By DAN JANCEWICZ

## Mogul hero

One of the most challenging types of terrain to ride on a ski hill under any conditions is a mogul run. That goes double for snowboarders. The first time I rode the bumps was purely accidental and while I was still very much a beginner. (Strangely, I hear the same story from most boarders I know.) Needless to say, I spent 98 per cent of the run



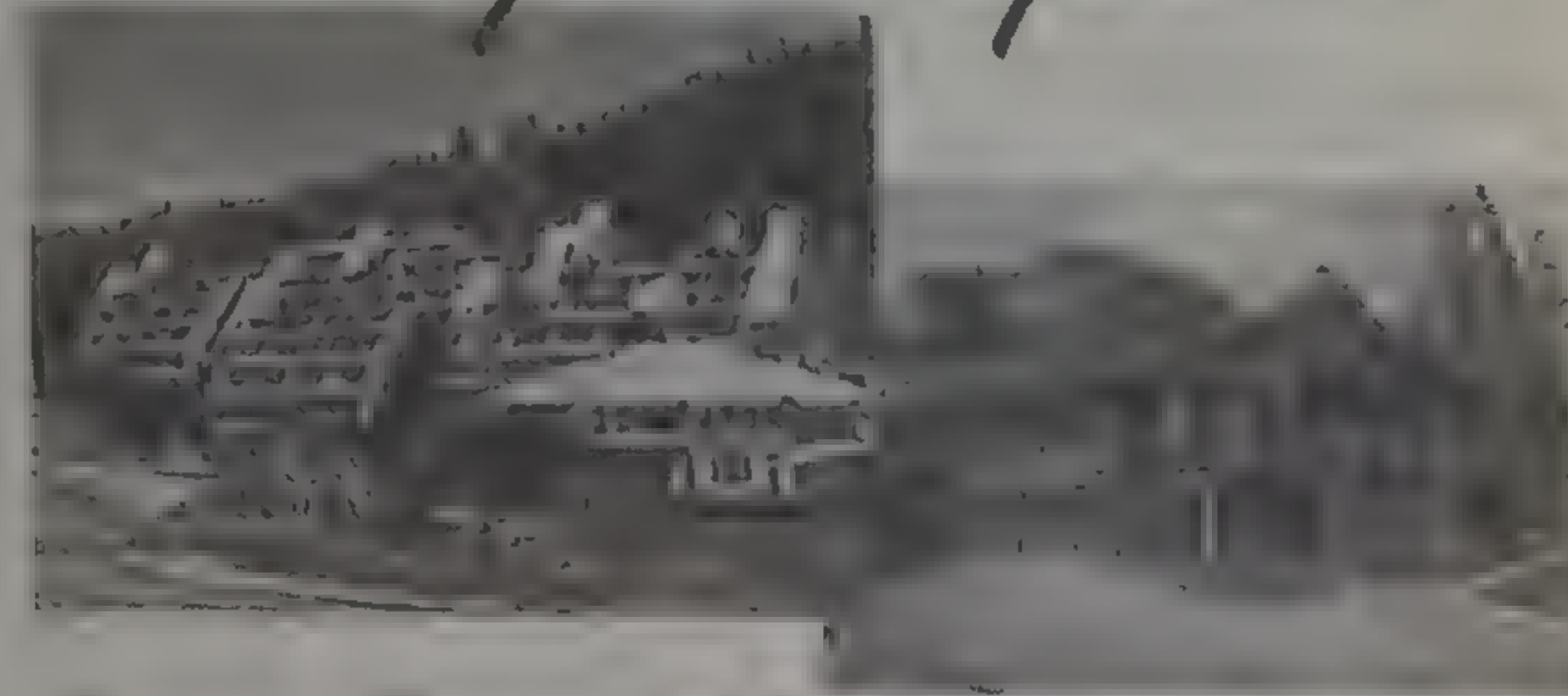
By COLIN CATHREA

## It might as well be spring

I have written many times about maintaining proper body position through the different parts of a turn. As a general rule, you should keep your upper body facing in the direction of travel, while your lower half steers the skis across the fall line and around into the

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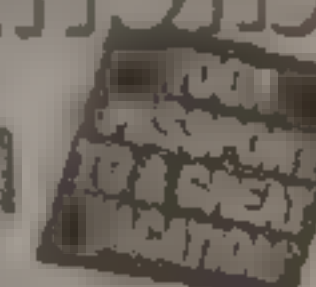
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SAN DIEGO - "There is a secret psychology to money," says T. Harv Eker, internationally known speaker and author of 11 top-selling books and courses, "Most people don't know about it, that's why most people never reach their financial potential."

Eker explains, "Your outer world is simply a reflection of your inner world! A lack of money is not a problem, it is merely a symptom of what's going on underneath! The fastest and only way to permanently change your financial situation on the outside, is to first change it on the inside." Eker should know, using this strategy he went from zero to millionaire in only 2 1/2 years!

"Give me 5 minutes," says Eker, "and I can predict your financial future for the rest of your life! How? By identifying your 'personal money and success blueprint'." According to Eker we all have a money and success blueprint already ingrained in our subconscious. "It's imperative to recognize what your own financial

blueprint is set for. Is it success, mediocrity or failure, struggle or ease, high or low earnings, consistent or inconsistent income, spending or saving, picking winning investments or picking losers?"

When asked how you can tell, Eker explains, "One way is to look at your results! If the temperature in a room is 72 degrees, chances are the thermostat is set for 72. If you're struggling with money now, there's a good chance your internal 'blueprint' is set for struggle. Regardless of whether you are making \$20,000 or \$100,000 per year, unless you raise your 'internal money blueprint' you will never substantially raise your income or net worth."

"Unfortunately for most people," says Eker, "your current blueprint will stay with you for the rest of your life, unless you identify it and change it. There is a powerful, one evening seminar that will do just that. It's called The "Millionaire Mind, The Secret Psychology of Wealth." In this

seminar you will learn how to completely recondition yourself for financial success. For many people, the change will be immediate and permanent."

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"This course is extremely powerful!" says Eker. "If you learn the strategies and use them, your financial life will change forever."

Over the past 10 years, Eker has helped over 50,000 people change their lives.

"Since attending your program several months ago, my income has quadrupled. Thanks!"

- Sian Lindem

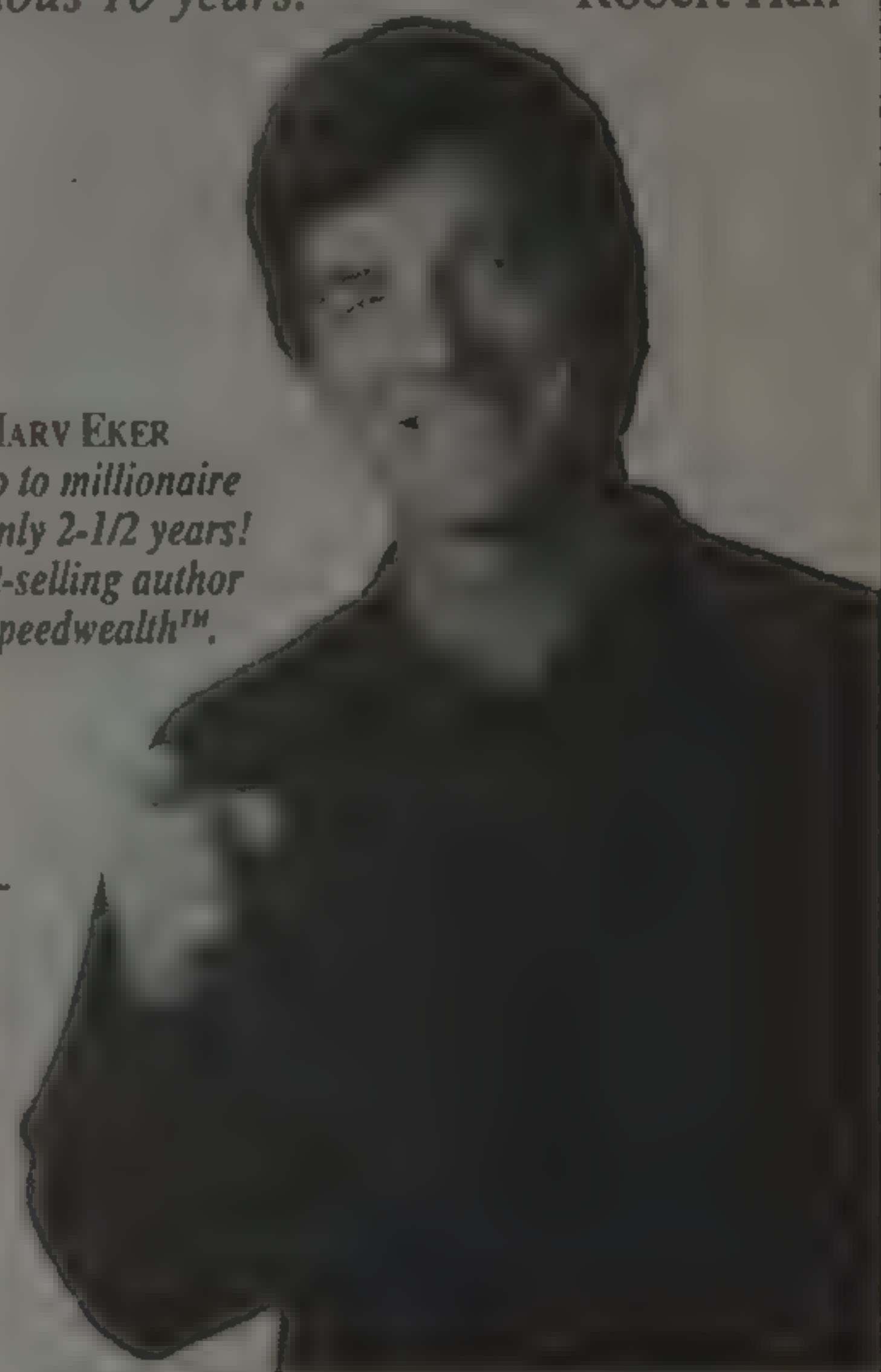
"I am a real estate agent. After the course, in one weekend I closed four deals!"

- Debbie Filippelli

"Since the course my income has taken a quantum leap. I have saved more money in the last 10 months than I have in the previous 10 years."

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# lifestyle

## The dirt on Kurt



### Arts Festival is Elvira Kurt's latest adventure in comedy

BY MIKE WINTERS

**L**et's say it's open mic night at Yuk Yuk's. If most of us went up onstage with a bunch of half-written jokes and just tried to "be ourselves," we'd probably shrivel up like little snails. For Elvira Kurt, however, the approach seems to work.

Aside from her HBO and Comedy Network specials and two successful CDs, Kurt has won a bunch of awards in North America, including the title of Funniest Female Comic at the Canadian Comedy Awards. And all of her success stems from a comedy born not out of silly gags, but a confessional style of sharing personal insecurities for her audience to identify with. In other words, very un-Howie Mandel.

"It's very different," she says over the phone from Toronto. "Because I always think, 'Why do I always explore dark subjects when I could just be talking about porn

### Resent laughter

"Tragedy is if I cut my finger," Mel Brooks once explained. "Comedy is if you walk into an open sewer and die."

Of course, comedy is much more than manhole mishaps. Look at the schedule of Edmonton's fourth annual Comedy Arts Festival, which runs from January 17 to 26, and you'll see listings for stand-up comedians (including festival headliner Steven Wright), musical humour (such as Nancy White, the female, Canadian version of Mark Russel) and Funny on Film, a Tuesday-night offering of movies that may be short on running time but long on laughs.

And, like Mel Brooks, everybody will be trying to make you laugh. For more on the theatrical performances, please see Theatre Notes on page 39. For more info on the festival, call 437-8828 or go to [www.comedyartsfestival.net](http://www.comedyartsfestival.net).

or whacking off?' I try things that I'm dealing with on a personal level, like 'What the hell am I doing?' It isn't the usual 'Hey, aren't ladies funny?'"

That said, Kurt had to learn how to be herself onstage. As a not-quite-out-of-the-closet lesbian when she first started stand-up 15 years ago in Toronto, it wasn't easy. "Now I'll explore the realities of my own life," she says, "as opposed to when I was very closeted. Back then, I would try to tell jokes as if I were a straight person and it was so obvious that I had no

[previous] **comedy**

idea what I was talking about. I have no idea what boys and girls do on a date; I just pretended I did. But eventually I learned to grow and trust my own instincts."

What Kurt calls instincts might more accurately be termed a knack for improvising onstage, a skill she's been relying on ever since her very first performance. When she went onstage for the first time, she completely forgot some jokes about TV commercials she had memorized. Instead of shrivelling under the pressure, she stalled—and then

made some jokes about her family life that were at least good enough for her to be asked back. "Improvising was very indicative of my inability to write and my lack of success as a writer," says Kurt. "It was a lot easier for me to go onstage with a half-assed idea and be pressured to flesh it out. The guy I live with gets up every morning and sits at his computer and writes for hours. He writes a thousand jokes, of which 10 are good. I just can't do that."

Edmonton audiences can expect new material when Kurt rides into town for the Comedy Arts Festival, since much of her act is based on a new comedy special she's filmed for HBO. "I have a lot of confidence that I didn't have when I came up with that stuff," she says. "I've had the experience of knowing what works really well."

Not that she's trying to suck up, but Kurt makes a point of saying how she always loves to perform in Edmonton. "The audiences are so great, and that's not true of Saskatchewan and some parts of Ontario. It's one of my favourite places to play." ☐

Elvira Kurt

Maclab Theatre, The Citadel •  
Fri, Jan 17 (8pm) • 437-8828

### Shannan Calcutt concludes the Izzy trilogy with *Out of My Skin*

BY MIKE WINTERS

**"P**eople have this idea that clowning is all tripping and falling," says Shannan Calcutt, better known as her love-starved onstage alter ego Izzy the Clown. "There's much more to a clown than that. I think a clown is someone that is courageous and brave because they show their true self, which no one really does. If you take the bus somewhere in the city, you wouldn't even make eye contact with people, while a clown is out there in the public and vulnerable."

Clown theory, you may be surprised to learn, is a well-developed branch of theatre, although the playful names of the various schools of thought—which include Kyogen, Ohno, Yoohoo and Nirtton—go a long way toward making them sound less intimidatingly academic. Much of it, including the Pochinko style of clowning (which Calcutt studied at the Dell'Arte

School of Physical Theatre in California), stresses "finding your inner clown" almost as a form of therapy. Pretty heady stuff for people in MC Hammer pants.

But Calcutt thinks clowning isn't just about making the audience laugh; it's about sharing a common experience between clown and audience. "Yes, when you think of clown, sure, it's funny," she says, "but there's a story, there's something happening other than just jokes. And rather than sitting in the dark for two hours and leaving, you're part of

[previous] **comedy**

what's happening. The house lights are up, and Izzy invites them into her world. The audience challenges me for sure, because I don't know what they're going to say. There are plenty of the surprises that are missing in theatre today."

That said, local audiences probably have a general idea of what to expect from Calcutt by now. *Out of My Skin* is getting its Edmonton premiere at the Comedy Arts Festival, but the previous two installments in Calcutt's "Izzy" trilogy—*Burnt Tongue* (in which Izzy chatted with the audience for

an hour from a park bench, insisting all the while that her blind date would be showing up any minute) and *It's Me, Only Better!* (in which Izzy made a disastrous attempt to join a convent)—were both sold-out smash hits at the Edmonton Fringe Festival. For *Out of My Skin*, Calcutt will once again be decked out in Izzy's trademark wedding dress, doing everything from engaging the audience in a synchronized swimming routine to taping homemade breast implants to her chest.

"The way I make the show," says Calcutt, "is that I work with my clown teacher at the studio and improvise. I didn't decide to do a breast implant routine, it was just improv. If we think something's funny, we keep it. And when we start a show, we'll change things after the first few performances based on the audience reactions.... A clown for me is someone who is completely in the moment, taking the audience into their world. You don't go to a clown to sit back in your chair." ☐

*Out of My Skin*

Written and performed by Shannan Calcutt • Library Theatre •  
Sat, Jan 25 (9pm);  
Sun, Jan 26 (8pm)

## Taking the Izzy way out



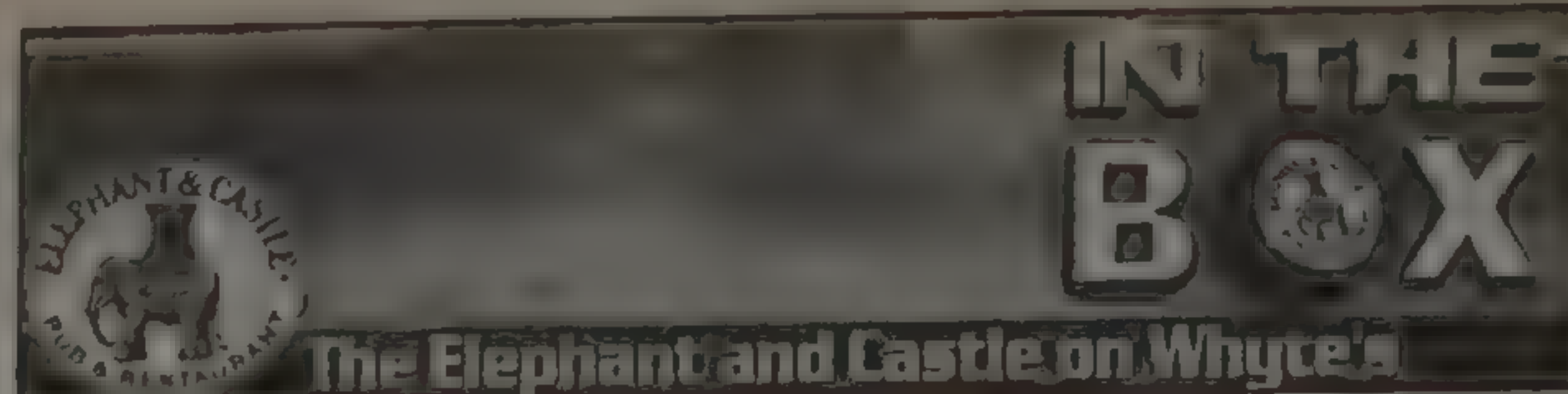
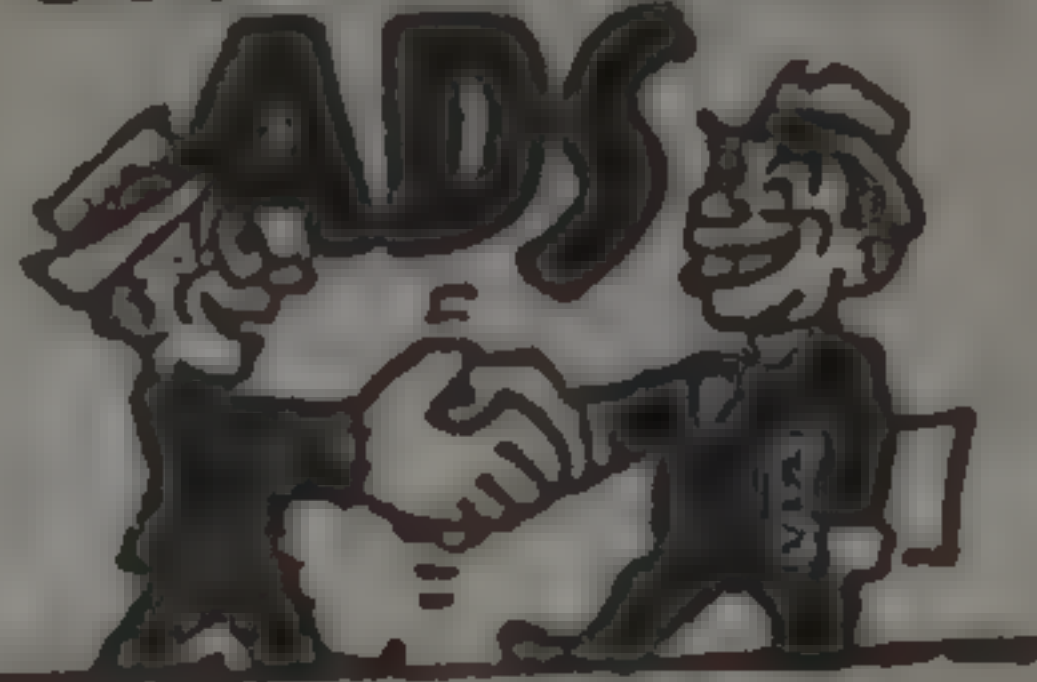
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CUSTOMERS  
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"CROCKETT" YOUNG  
AND JOHN  
"TUBBS" TURNER**

*There were two Oiler teams on the ice last week. One was the team that beat Anaheim 1-0. The other was the team that beat Los Angeles 5-4 and waxed Columbus 8-5. Just like in the glory days. You score five; we'll score eight. Oh wait, there were three teams out there. The listless, apathetic squad that lost 2-0 to Ottawa and hopefully never suits up again this season.*

**John:** The Oilers were back on a roll this past week, starting with an exciting 1-0 road win over Anaheim. And while I'm on the topic of exciting hockey, how about those Ottawa Senators? Saturday night's game was easily the most boring hockey game I have ever witnessed. Bring on Nashville and Minnesota—they're more exciting than the Sens. I felt sorry for Ottawa and their financial woes until I watched the game they played here in Edmonton. Now I hope they fold. The real tragedy is that they're based in Canada, the birthplace of hockey, and they've turned it into something painful to watch. They've only had one sellout in Ottawa this year and I can't blame the fans for staying away.


**Dave:** I've always believed this. No fans? No team. This would include Florida, Carolina, Anaheim, the New York Islanders and Buffalo. Buffalo is on the way out anyway. If your city doesn't support the team, you shouldn't have one. In fact, I believe that if your region doesn't provide players (Florida and California and Texas especially) you shouldn't be in the league either. The Oilers had sparse crowds for a spell but managed to turn things around. I saw more people at the Iron Maiden/Twisted Sister show in the '80s than at some Oiler games in the mid-'90s (the Vince Damphousse/Bernie Nicholls years). Although back then you could buy cheap tickets and move to the rich men's seats.

**John:** Thursday's game in Los Angeles did see the Oil break their recent curse of blowing three-goal leads. It had gotten so bad that some of the people I was watching the game with were going to leave when Edmonton scored to make it a three-goal lead. They came close to blowing it but managed to hang on—thanks in part to the game not being another minute longer.

**Dave:** The dreaded three-goal lead. I've never been so upset to see the Oilers score goals. But at least that curse was broken, although the Kings came dangerously close to tying the game up. The team still can't play

with a lead. But I got a kick out of the Los Angeles game and the Columbus Blue Jackets game here at Skyreach. They were good old-fashioned high-scoring games.

**John:** As I was getting dressed for the game Monday (putting on the leather tie while listening to Echo and the Bunnymen) I was looking forward to another shootout at Northlands Coliseum. And I wasn't disappointed. When Columbus scored the first goal, I thought it might turn into a defensive struggle, but then all hell broke loose. And some of the goals were absolute beauties, with Georges Laraque's second goal being all about strength and determination. He out-muscled what seemed like the entire Blue Jacket line-up along the boards and finally tucked home the goal on his second attempt. By the time the dust had settled, 13 goals had been scored. And this crazy goal-scoring pace has been going on all over the league this past week. I was half-expecting to come home after the game on Monday, turn on the television and watch a new episode of *Miami Vice*.

**Dave:** They should've been wearing the old bright orange and blue jerseys on Monday. So the other team scores five goals? Who cares? We've got Gretzky, Messier, Kurri, Anderson, Coffey... oh wait. Laraque, Marchant and Carter are here now. I think it's time to get back to defence. And I'll get back to my old Van Halen albums until then. But wait—with Mike York's mullet growing in and Ryan Smyth already sporting hockey hair, the team is getting the '80s look. Eight goals a game, here we come! 

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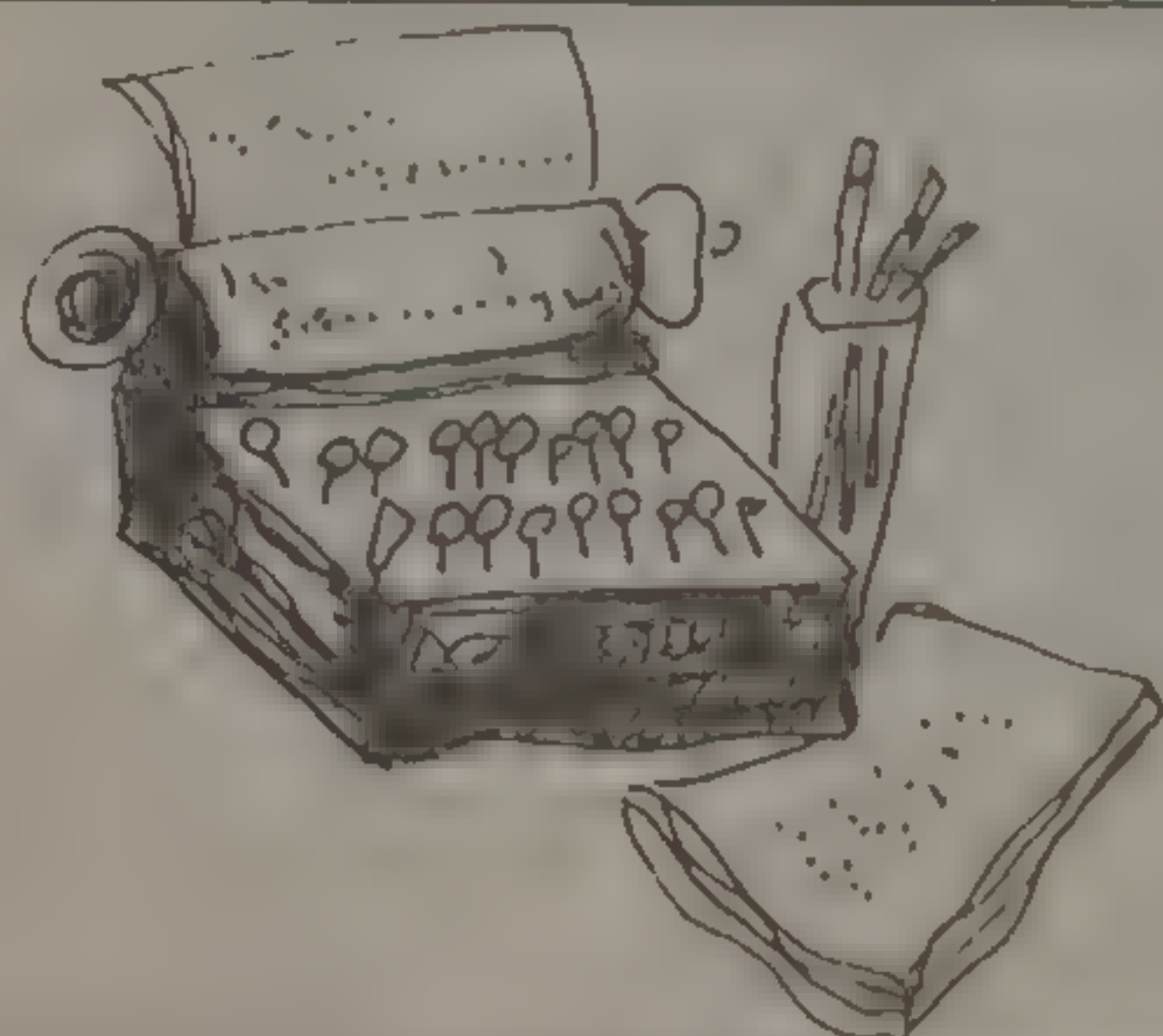
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# DISH WEEKLY

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\* Price per person, before tax & tip

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**Café Mosaics** (10844 Whyte Ave., 433-9702) A wide variety of home-made, healthy meals, featuring many selections for vegetarians. \$

**Oriental Veggie House** (10586-100 St., 424-0463) Edmonton's only totally vegetarian restaurant. Non-smoking. \$-\$\$

**Route 99 Diner** (8820-99 St., 432-0968) 50's diner with an abundance of memorabilia, a jukebox playing '50s music and a great variety of food. \$-\$\$

**Turkish Donair and Kebab** (10332 Whyte Ave., 434-6597) \$

### BAKERIES

**Bagel Bin Bakery & Bistro** (#226, 6655-178 St., 481-5721) A little piece of Europe in the heart of Edmonton. Hearty homemade soups, grilled Italian sandwiches, café latte and cappuccino, fresh crusty breads, bagels, luscious pastries and tortes... Need we say more? \$

**Bagellatté** (Baseline Rd. & Cloverbar, Sherwood Park, 417-1911) Specialty bagels and cream cheeses made fresh in our bakery. Café latte, cappuccino, breakfast and deli sandwiches, desserts, ice cream. Open 7 days a week. Bagels and spreads at Old Strathcona Farmers Market on Sat. \$

**Bee Bell Bakery** (10416-80 Ave, 439-3247) Baking over 400 fresh items daily. From bread, bagel and buns to cakes, pastries and pies. In old Strathcona for 46 years! Cash and cheques only. \$

**Buns and Roses Organic Wholegrain Bakery** (6519-111 St., 438-0098) Allergy-free baking.

**Tree Stone Bakery** (8612-99 St., 433-5924) Artisan bread shop making pain au levain (true French sourdough). \$-\$\$

### BISTROS

**Bistro Praha** (10168-100A St., 424-4218) The first European café since 1977 and still the only one. \$\$

**Café De Ville** (10137-124 St., 488-9188) Located in Old Glenora, offering a diverse and eclectic menu in a warm and inviting atmosphere. (Check out the full menu at [cafedeville.com](http://cafedeville.com)) \$\$

**Café Select** (10016-106 St., 423-0419) Offering lunch, dinner and late night dining in a relaxed atmosphere for over 14 years. French style cuisine, seafood, steaks. \$\$-\$\$\$

**Carole's Café & Catering** (10145-104 St., 425-1824) Creative, comfortable, accommodating. Offering a diverse menu of fresh French and Italian food in a warm and inviting atmosphere. \$-\$\$

**Dante's Bistro** (17328 Stony Plain Rd., 486-4448) Enjoy our diverse menu in our bistro or on our rooftop patio. \$\$

**Four Rooms** (#137 Edmonton Centre, 102 Ave. & Rice Howard Way, 426-4767) Casual dining in an upscale environment, featuring a unique international tapas menu. \$\$

**Jax Bean Stop Coffee & Bistro** (Seven locations in Edmonton, 478-0480) Visit one of our locations and enjoy a Euro breakfast, lunch or sample our huge selection of desserts. Daily specials available. Exclusive supplier of "Rocky Mountain Roasters" custom roasted gourmet coffee. Smoking and non-smoking. \$

**La Piazza Bistro Italiano** (10458 Whyte Ave., 433-3512) Specializing in home made thin crust pizza, grilled Italian sandwiches, focaccia, calzone, soups, unique pastas and Italian gelato. \$

**Manor Café** (10109-125 St., 482-7577) Remarkable location, flavour and service. Great prices on dishes from around the world. \$\$

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**Riverside Bistro** (Thornton Court Hotel, 99 St. and Jasper Ave., 945-4747) Experience casual but elegant atmosphere with continental flavour and enjoy the most magnificent river view. Lunch, dinner, Sunday brunch. Reservations recommended. \$-\$\$

**Russian Tea Room** (10312 Jasper Ave., 426-0000) Best cheesecake in town. A quiet and romantic atmosphere; candlelight at night to warm your heart. \$-\$\$

**Stormin' Norman's** (#29 Perron St., St. Albert, 460-1699) Cozy bistro offering appetizers, fresh salads, steaks, seafood, pastas. Cappuccinos, lattes and desserts. \$-\$\$

**Sweetwater Café** (12427-102 Ave., 488-1959) In the heart of Old Glenora, delicious, health-conscious dishes made fresh. \$-\$\$

**Tasty Tom's Bistro & Bar** (9965 Whyte Ave., 437-

5761) Find a taste explosion on the other side of the tracks. Let our chefs Tom and Christian entertain you for lunch, dinner or a late night snack. \$-\$\$

### CAFÉS

**Aroma Borealis** (Coopers & Lybrand Building, 211, 10130-103 St., 944-9603) Designer sandwiches, latte, cappuccino, great coffee, and fabulous desserts by Skopek's Bake Shop. \$

**Bennys Bagels Café on Whyte** (10460-82 Ave., 414-0007) Come for breakfast, lunch, or for a latte or cappuccino after a night out. Check out our patio for the hot summer days. \$

**Bohemia Cyber Café** (11012 Jasper Ave., 429-3442) Comfortable surroundings, enjoy our array of productivity and entertainment software over a chai latte or a bowl of Mexican tortilla soup. \$\$

**Café Amandine** (8711 Whyte Ave., 465-1919) Featuring fine french cuisine—quiches, tortes and crepes. Bakery and pastries. Take out catering. Live music Thursdays \$

**Café La Gare** (10308A-81 Ave., 433-5138) Smoke-free. Licensed and offers a winning medley of culinary delights and fresh baked goods. \$

**Café Lacombe** (10111 Bellamy Hill, The Crowne Plaza, Chateau Lacombe, 428-6611) The finest in fusion cooking. Best breakfast and lunch buffets in town. \$\$\$

**Café Lila's** (10153-97 St., 414-0627) In the farmers market. Grilled sandwiches, daily specials, European desserts and specialty coffees in a smoke free environment. \$\$

**Café on Whyte** (10159-Whyte Ave., 437-4858) Open 24 hours on Friday and Saturday. Plenty of parking. Breakfast and lunch specials. Come and enjoy our quiet and friendly atmosphere \$

**Calabash Café** (10630-124 St., 414-6625) Creative Caribbean cooking in casual yet comfortable atmosphere, lunch, dinner or late night snacks. Come for the food, stay for the party! \$-\$\$

**Cappuccino Affair** (4 locations, 482-7166) Friendly staff, home-like atmosphere, fireplace. Light breakfast, lunch or night-time snack. \$

**Click Here Café** (10805-105 Ave., 423-4002) Open 10 a.m. till 3 a.m.. The place that no one knows about, but everyone goes to. \$

**Expressioz Café, Market & Meeting Place** (9142-118 Ave., 471-9125) Homestyle cooking in a friendly and creative atmosphere. Live music, artists giftshop, special events. Licensed. \$

**Jazzberrys Too Café** (10116-124 St., 488-1553) Good home-style cooking in a relaxed environment. Smokers always welcome. \$

**Market Café** (16615-109 Ave., 930-4060) Fast, fun and for the family. Featuring daily breakfast, lunch and dinner buffet and a delightful à la carte menu. Non-smoking. \$-\$\$

**Muddy Waters Cappuccino Bar** (8211-111 St., 433-4390) Great eats and drinks in a comfortable atmosphere. Daily liquor and food specials. Open till midnight. Catering. \$

**NetWerks Internet / New Media Cafe** (8128-103 St., 909-5871) Gourmet, fresh sandwiches made to order. Smoking \$

**The Pomegranate** 8614-99 St., 433-8933. European style café with espresso bar, selection of loose teas, Tree Stone baked goods. Light fare, beyond ordinary. \$

**Savoy's Gourmet Health Café** (11010-51 Ave., 437-7718) South Indian cuisine, vegetarian menu, sandwiches and soups for under \$3.99. Fruit and vegetable juice bar. Non-smoking. \$

**Steeps** (12411- Stony Plain Rd., 488-1505) The original tea café. Huge selection of premium loose tea. Sit, sip and savour! Great gift ideas, awesome desserts and light lunches. Non-smoking. \$

**Sugar Bowl** (10922-88 Ave., 433-8369) The eclectic and eclectic café. Full espresso bar, fresh baking daily. Daily hot specials. Live entertainment Friday nights. \$-\$\$

**Sunterra Market** (Commerce Place, 201, 10150 Jasper Ave., 426-3791) Muffins and pastries freshly made at our on-site bakery. Non-smoking. \$

**Urban Grind** (10124-124 St. 451-1039) Come and try our Fresh Fruit Bubble Drink in our eclectic atmosphere. Variety of specialty coffees, mouthwatering desserts, homemade soups and sandwiches made fresh when ordered. Open until 2 a.m. Mon.-Fri. Smoking. \$\$

### CAJUN

**Cajun House** (7 St. Anne St., St. Albert, 460-8772) Worth the drive to sample some of the best jambalaya and gumbo in the province. \$\$

**Da-De-O** (10548-82 Ave., 433-0930) Funky-style restaurant in an old-style diner on Whyte Ave. Smoking. \$\$

**Louisiana Purchase** (10320-111 St., 420-6779) Higher-end style of cooking from the bayou and great atmosphere. Non-smoking. \$\$

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**Barb & Ernie's** (9906-72 Ave., 433-3242) One of the best Mom and Pop operations in the city. \$\$

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**David's Restaurant & Lounge** (8407 Argyl Rd., 468-1167) Featuring AAA Alberta beef and a great patio. \$\$

**Denny's** (multiple locations) More than a great breakfast. Open 24 hours. Licensed. \$-\$\$

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**Larry's Café** (6, 10015-82 Ave., 414-6040) Best breakfasts and lunches on the south side. Cheap prices! Open till 3:30 p.m. daily. \$

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**Precinct 55** (5552 Calgary Trail S., 432-5550) Red eye breakfast, Wednesday wing night, Sunday smorg, homemade cooking. Licensed, Happy hour, smoking. \$

**Rosie's Bar and Grill** (10604-101 St., 423-3499) Nothing fancy, but sensible home cooking without the frills. Non-smoking restaurant with smoking lounge. \$

**Shecky's** (7623 Argyl Rd., 426-8983, #100, 10130-103 St., 424-8657) Real food, real fast. Terrific Italian dishes. Soups/salads/sandwiches made from scratch. Call ahead for reservations. Smoking. \$

**Squires Pub/Starvin' Marvin's** (10505-82 Ave., 439-8594) We invite you in for daily and monthly specials, as well as happy hour from 4-8 pm. ([www.squirespub.com](http://www.squirespub.com)) \$

**Staccato's Soup, Stew and Chili Bar** (9082-51 Ave., Southgate Mall, Commerce Place, 466-5062) A Canadian fresh food company, serving the best soups, stews and chilis by Canyon Creek Soup Company. No MSG or preservatives. Non-smoking. \$

**The Tea House** (52404 Range Rd. 221, Ardrossan, AB, 922-2279, 922-6963) Country fresh foods for lunch, dinners or breakfast. Antiques, local arts and crafts and unique gifts to browse around. Breakfast and lunch \$; dinner \$-\$\$ Non-smoking.

**Temptationz Night Club** (10045-109 St., 441-9944) Our kitchen opens for business at 11:00 am and is open until 7:00 pm. We have great open-grill food as well as pastas and Caribbean cuisine via N'JOY catering. \$\$

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**Urban Lounge** (8103-105 St., 439-3388) For lunch, dinner or late night fare, experience wholesome homemade burgers. \$

**The Village Café** (11223 Jasper Ave. 488-0955) Serves homemade gourmet dishes prepared by red seal chefs on site. Specializing in prime rib, seafood, pasta and stirfries. Non-smoking. \$\$

### CHINESE

**Blue Willow** (11107-103 Ave., 428-0584) Great food, great service and great non-smoking atmosphere. \$\$

**Double Greeting Wonton House** (10212-96 St., 424-2486) The rock 'n' rollers choice. Try a spicy long donut with rice roll or a curried chicken platter, washed down with a fine sago concoction. Smoking. \$

**Man's Café** (12520-118 Ave., 452-3672) A super stop for a variety of tasty treats. Make sure to try the Oriental stir fry. Smoking. \$\$

**Marco Polo** (#206, 9700-105 Ave., 428-3388) The classiest Chinese restaurant in Edmonton. Smoking. \$\$

**Noodle Noodle** (10008-106 Ave., 422-6862) The best dim sum in Edmonton. Non-smoking. \$\$

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101-20

## EDISH WEEKLY

Continued from previous page

### CONTINENTAL

**Cilantro's on 111th** (10322-111 St., 424-6182) Wide selection of dishes from kiwi mussels to blackened catfish or mini rack of lamb. \$-\$

**David's** (8407 Argyll Rd., 468-1167) Specializing in Alberta beef dishes on the south of the town. Smoking in the lounge. \$-\$

**Franklin's Inn Dining Room** (2016 Sherwood Dr., Sherwood Park 467-1234) All-day breakfast and a great selection of all your favourites. \$-\$

**The Grinder** (10957-124 St., 453-1709) 20 years old but under new management. Also lounge and games room. Smoking in the lounge. \$-\$

**Mayfield Grill** (1665-109 Ave., 930-4062) Casual dining in an elegant atmosphere, extensive menu for lunch and dinner, best Sunday brunch. Smoking in the lounge. \$-\$

**Richie Mill Bar and Grill** (10171 Saskatchewan Dr., 431-1717) Century old fieldstone walls create a cozy atmosphere in which to enjoy a variety of dishes or relax during happy hour 4-6 p.m. Smoking. \$-\$

**Sidetrack Café** (10333-112 St., 421-1326) Whether you like succulent steak, decadent eggs Benedict in the morning or late night chicken wings, the Sidetrack Café kitchen will do it for you. Smoking in the lounge. \$-\$

**Teak Room** (16615-109 Ave., 484-0821) Enjoy a fine dining experience with gourmet dishes prepared by our award-winning chefs. Non-smoking. \$-\$

**Turtle Creek Café** (8404-109 St., 433-4202) Continental-style bistro with good variety of dishes and pizza, stirfries, pasta and more. Non-smoking. \$-\$

### EAST INDIAN

**Jaipur** (3005-66 St., 414-1600) A small establishment with great cuisine. \$-\$

**Jewel of Kashmir** (7219-104 St., 438-4646) Discover a place that's out of this world. Designed to capture the excitement and glamour of India.

**Khazana** (10177-107 St., 702-0330) Authentic Tandoori cuisine in one of Edmonton's most elegant dining rooms. Smoking in the lounge. \$-\$

**New Asian Village** (10143 Saskatchewan Dr., 433-3804) Cooking at its best from the subcontinent with a great panoramic river valley view. Smoking. No minors. \$

**Spicey House** (9777-102 A Ave., Canada Place (Food Court), 425-0193) Veg and non-veg curries with choice herbs, the secret to the intoxicating flavour of Indian cuisine. \$

### EUROPEAN

**Continental Treat** (10560-82 Ave., 433-7432) Enjoy excellent European cuisine in an elegant yet comfortable atmosphere. Non-smoking. \$-\$

**Madison's Grill** (Union Bank Inn, 10053 Jasper Ave., 423-3600) Unique historical building; upscale regional cuisine with a European influence. Non-smoking. \$\$\$

**Restaurant Moskow** (104, 14315-118 Ave., 455-7677) Try Russian dishes like borscht and meat dumplings in the warm atmosphere and listen to Russian music. Non-smoking. Lunch \$. Dinner \$\$.

**The Russian Tea Room** (10312 Jasper Ave., 426-0000) Romantic, quiet restaurant in the heart of downtown. Best cheesecake in town. European and Ukrainian cuisine. Palm readings daily. Non-smoking and smoking. \$-\$

### FRENCH CUISINE

**The Blue Pear** (10643-123 St., 482-7178) Open Weds-Sat. The Blue Pear serves a French style five

course prix fixe menu that changes every two weeks. The current menu can be viewed at [www.thebluepear.com](http://www.thebluepear.com). Reservations are highly recommended. \$\$\$

**La Boheme** (6427-112 Ave., 474-5693) A rare establishment where the alchemy of the surroundings, food, drink and service combine to create something approaching the art of living well. \$\$\$

**Café Amandine** (8523-91 St., 465-1919) Fine French cuisine. Entertainment on Friday and Saturday. Non-smoking. \$

**The Crêperie** (10220-103 St., 420-6656) Award-winning Edmonton Institution without haute price. Non-smoking. \$

**Three Musketeers** (10416-82 Ave., 437-4239) The heart of a French creperie with an adventurous soul! Traditional French fare and tantalizing specials served in a relaxed European atmosphere. Non-smoking. \$

**Normand's** (11639A Jasper Ave., 482-2600) Whether you're craving a wild mushroom soup or have an appetite for wild game, we can fill your needs. It's a country-French fare with an Alberta accent. Smoking in the lounge. \$-\$

### GREEK

**Grub Med Ristorante** (17 Fairway Dr., 119 St. & 37 Ave.) Edmonton's finest Greek restaurant. Open for dinner at 5 p.m. \$-\$

**It's All Greek to Me** (10127-100A St., Rice Howard Way, 425-2073) Delicious spanakopita with fine Greek wines. Beautiful Greek atmosphere. Smoking. \$-\$

**Koutouki Taverna** (10704-124 St., next to Roxy Theatre, 452-5383) The most authentic Greek food in Edmonton, prepared by the original Yianni himself. Smoking. \$-\$

**Symposium on Whyte** (10439-82 Ave., 2nd Floor, 433-7912) Innovative Greek cuisine in a beautiful open setting overlooking Whyte Ave. Non-smoking. \$-\$

**Sytaki Greek Island Restaurant** (16313-111 Ave., 484-2473) Visit the Greek islands in Edmonton. Smoking in the lounge. \$-\$

**Yiannis Taverna Restaurant** (10444-82 Ave., 433-6768) Authentic Greek food, belly dancing, and the friendly staff create a fun and boisterous atmosphere. Non-smoking. \$-\$

### IRISH PUB

**Celli's** (10338-109 St., 426-5555) A great variety of pub food and drinks. Smoking. \$-\$

**The Druid** (11606 Jasper Ave., 454-9928) The best pub food, drinks and industry night in Edmonton. Features authentic Irish entrées and daily lunch specials. Smoking. \$-\$

**O'Byrne's Irish Pub** (10616-Whyte Ave., 414-6766) We serve a variety of pub food, all hand-made with care and pride. From our homemade fish 'n' chips to our near-famous Irish breakfast. Our menu changes daily, so please come in and indulge in the experience. Smoking. \$-\$

**Scruffy Murphy's Irish Pub** (Whitemud Crossing, 4211-106 St., 485-1717) Traditional Irish fare plus pub favourites. Half-price appetizers during happy hour. Smoking. \$-\$

### ITALIAN

**Allegro Italian Kitchen** (10011-109 St., 424-6644) Italy comes to Edmonton, with great atmosphere and even better food. \$

**Bruno's Italian Restaurant** (9914-89 Ave., 433-8161) Quiet, one of Edmonton's best-kept secrets. Smoking. \$-\$

**Chianti** (10501-82 Ave., 439-8729) Botanical paintings serve as a nice backdrop in establishment offering the best pasta selections in town. \$-\$

**Eastside Mario's** (2104-99 St., 488-8938) All you can ask for in Italian cuisine. \$-\$

**Flore Cantina Italiana** (8715-109 St., 439-8466) Good, affordable, restaurant off campus. Non-smoking. \$

**Il Portico** (10012-107 St., 424-0707) Trendy downtown restaurant with fresh imaginative dishes. Non-smoking. \$\$\$

**Italian Kitchen Restaurant** (69 Ave., 178 St., Callingham Mall, 489-5619) Relaxing Italian dining. From pastas such as fettuccine Alfredo to dishes such as steak Diane. Non-smoking. \$-\$

**Italix Ristorante Italiano** (512 St. Albert Trail, St. Albert, 459-8090) Delicious homemade Italian food \$-\$

**La Spiga** (10133-125 St., 482-3100) In the heart of High Street. \$\$\$

**The Old Spaghetti Factory** (10220-103 St., 422-6088) Heaping plates of spaghetti served with our patented thick, tasty sauce. Non-smoking. \$-\$

**Pappa's** (4702-118 Ave., 471-5749) A fine Italian family restaurant. Non-smoking. \$-\$

**Piccolino Bistro** (9112-142 St., 443-2110) Beautiful, uncomplicated Italian fare in an appealing environment. \$-\$

**Sicilian Pasta Kitchen** (11239 Jasper Ave., 488-3838; 805 Saddleback Rd., 435-3888) Two great locations, one mission. Great Italian cuisine. \$-\$

**Sorrentino's** (10844-95 St., 425-0960) In the heart of Little Italy, serves delicious authentic Italian fare. Non-smoking. \$-\$

**Sorrentino's Whyte Avenue** (10612-82 Ave., Varscona Hotel, 474-9860) Authentic Italian cooking. Tantalizing appetizers, pizzas, calzones, pasta, sandwiches and entrees. Smoking in the lounge. \$-\$

**That's Aroma** (11010-101 St., 425-7335) The garlic specialists, offering fine Italian cuisine. \$-\$

**Tin Pan Alley Pasta House & Winery** (4804 Calgary Trail South, 702-2060) Pasta by day, party by night! Edmonton's hottest new restaurant for delicious and affordable pasta. Smoking in the

lounge. \$-\$

**Tony Roma's** (11730 Jasper Ave., 488-1971) Great barbecue chicken and ribs with lots of food on your plate. Non-smoking. \$-\$

**Zenari's on 1st** (10117-101 St., 425-6151) Enjoy eclectic Italian food in an intimate funky atmosphere. Dinner or drinks, featuring live jazz every weekend. Wheelchair accessible. Non-smoking. \$

### JAPANESE

**Furasato** (10012-82 Ave., 439-1335) Cozy restaurant featuring a choice selection of meals from the Land of the Rising Sun. Non-smoking. \$-\$

**Kyoto** (10128-109 St., 420-1750; 8701-109 St., 414-6055) A varied selection of sushi & entrees. Try our tatami rooms. \$-\$

**Mikado** (10350-109 St., 425-8096) The oldest Japanese restaurant in Edmonton for a good reason. Non-smoking. \$

**Nagano Japanese Cuisine** (10080-178 St., 487-8900) Authentic Japanese food. Extensive menu choices from sushi to pan fried dumplings and teriyaki beef or chicken. Open for lunch and dinner. \$-\$

### KOREAN

**Korean Bul-Go-Gi** (8813-92 St., 466-2330) Authentic Korean style barbecue. Licensed & take-out. \$-\$

### LATIN

**Valparaiso Latin Canadian Club** (10816-95 St., 425-5338) Great Latino food! Great Latino music! Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m.. Free tango lessons on Thursdays. \$

### LEBANESE

**Parkallen Restaurant** (7018-109 St., 436-8080) Multiple-award winning restaurant and menu. Authentic Lebanese cuisine offered in an elegant atmosphere. Large extensive wine list with rare Lebanese and French classics. Reservations recommended. \$-\$

**Sahara Sands** (8120-101 St., 433-3337) Try the best of Lebanese and Mediterranean food. \$-\$

### MALAYSIAN

**Tropika** (6004 Calgary Trail S., 439-6699) Malaysian cuisine with eclectic style served for lunch & dinner. \$-\$

### MEDITERRANEAN

**Valentino's Restaurant** (Bourbon Street, West Edmonton Mall, 444-3344) Valentino's offers great food. Steaks, gourmet pizzas and pasta, with a touch of Mediterranean cuisine. Smoking and non-smoking. \$-\$

### MEXICAN

**Jullo's Barrio** (10450-82 Ave., 431-0774) Hearty dishes in a trendy neighbourhood, perfect for your next fiesta. Non-smoking. \$

### MONGOLIAN

**The Mongolie Grill** (10104-109 St., 420-0037) Fun, creative Mongolian barbecue. You select the meats and vegetables, we'll prepare them. \$-\$

### PASTRY SHOP

**Alain Patisserie** (9925-82 Ave., 988-9312) Quality French breads and pastries. Also serving sandwiches, quiches and specialty coffee. Non-smoking. \$

### PIZZA

**Funky Pickle** (10441-82 Ave., 10835-Jasper Ave., 17104-90 Ave., 433-FUNK(3863)) Best Pizza, *Edmonton Journal* Summer Reader Survey, 1996-99; Golden Fork Award, 1999-2000; *Edmonton Journal* four-star rating. \$

**Park Lounge & Sports Bar** (Franklin's Inn, 2016 Sherwood Dr., Sherwood Park, 467-1234) "More than worth the trip." Sherwood Park's best pizza for over 15 years. Unbelievable daily specials to complement our full menu! \$-\$

**Parkallen Pizza** (8424-109 St., 430-4777) Multiple-award winning. Same owner/operator since 1986. Serving up Edmonton's finest pizza, Lebanese salad and donairs. \$-\$

**Pharos Pizza** (8708-109 St., 433-5205) World-famous pizza since 1970. Made with fresh ingredients and no preservatives. Try our Popeye—it's our speciality. We also offer small dishes for individuals. Non-smoking. \$

### PUBS

**Billy Budd's Lounge** (99 St. & Argyll Road, 436-0439) We offer an extensive food menu, 5 draft lines and a large selection of beer favorites. For entertainment we have 3 pool tables, darts, 7 VLT's and a big screen TV. Smoking and non-smoking. \$-\$

**Brewsters** (11620-104 Ave., 482-4677) Extensive menu selection. 14 different types of beer brewed on site. Brewery tours available. Smoking. \$-\$

**Elephant & Castle** (3 locations: 103 St. & Whyte Ave.; Eaton Centre, 3rd Level; West Edmonton Mall near Entrance #8) Your comfort spot, with a great selection of British favourites—appetizers, burgers, salads and of course the finest British and Canadian beer and single-malt Scotch. Smoking in the lounge. \$



# Padmanadi is my new pad, man

Vegan restaurant serves up friendly hospitality and faux meat

By DAN RUBINSTEIN

It's a Sunday evening in early January. My appetite is in overdrive, fueled by a hard-fought Green Pepper Hockey League loss and a cleansing postgame bottle of Pil in the Parkland Arena's Cheers & Tears lounge (dubbed Beers for Peers on this particular night). What's a hungry vegetarian to do?

When your craving for meat is so strong you're tempted by the beefy grease on the sports bar grill, restaurants like Oriental Veggie House and the newer Veggie House on 109 Street used to be your only options in Edmonton. Both are excellent: full menus to order from and dozens of soy-based "meat" dishes that might not be completely convincing but certainly do the trick. Yet Sunday nights are tough in this town, so we drove into the belly of the beast—97 Street—and sauntered into the couple-month-old **Padmanadi Vegetarian Restaurant** ready for a surprise.

We were the only four people in the restaurant that night, which isn't always a bad thing. It means your table gets *all* the attention. (You also get your pick of the tables; we selected a gargantuan round table with not one but two concentric lazy Susans, a smaller one for condiments on top of the main spinner.) Ordering was easy: we picked the dinner for four, an incredible deal at \$48. And with that wee price tag, I don't think we

were prepared for the bounty of food that came our way.

Dinner started with a soup, a simple clear broth with chunks of potato, carrot and other veggies. It didn't taste very, well, Asian—but with a couple of dollops of chili sauce, it kicked back. (It was at point that Colin announced that he and I were having a "spicy-off." Pat, one of several servers who doted on our table, seemed amused.) After the soup, Pat brought out a plate of crisp spring rolls and an appetizer platter with an assortment of "meats" like ham, pork and duck. Everything was perfect. Even the ornamental white carrot in

## restaurants

the middle of the platter, carved to resemble a blooming rose, was tasty.

Then the main dishes started coming out, as did the superlatives. Barbecue tofu and veggies, ginger "scallops" with mushrooms, spicy "shrimps," curried "mutton" and taro root cake. ("Mutton could be better," Colin remarked when the mutton arrived. You might remember my friend Colin. He's the same "my friend Colin" known for his quotes in David DiCenzo's regular *Vue* food columns.) The texture and taste of the shrimps, scallops and mutton were more realistic (and delicious) than any faux meat I'd ever eaten. The mutton especially had the fibrous feel of meat. Drenched in a spicy coconut curry sauce, there was indeed mutton better.

Padmanadi serves a wide range of Asian styles, concentrating on Indonesian and Taiwanese-accented dishes, we were told. It's completely vegan and, moreover, follows the

Buddhist belief of eschewing all garlic and onion. Even without those so-called culinary essentials, the flavours were alive.

## Kasim city

The four of us—Colin, Bobbi, Lisa and I—were lost in food-induced revelry (Padmanadi is not licensed) when chef Kasim popped out of the kitchen to say hello. All smiles and giggles, he appeared genuinely happy that we were happy. Kasim (one name, that's all there is on his business card) produced a camera and we obliged with a pose. Arms over shoulders, chopsticks holding morsels to each others' mouths, faces red with laughter. Kasim snapped a couple of photos, then prepared our dessert, a sweet soup called Bo Bo Cha Cha made with coconut milk and tapioca globules plus chunks of taro root and yam. We were stuffed, yet we were more than happy to slurp down the soup.

Exactly two weeks later, after promising we'd be back soon, we returned to Padmanadi, this time after a Green Pepper Hockey League victory (and a stop at Tears & Rears). Kasim remembered us. "Where were you, Colin?" he asked, as adept at leg-pulling as our quote-making jokester. "Everyday I was waiting, wondering when you'd come." Our second meal was just as wonderful as our first. We put our faith in Kasim and he did not disappoint. He even produced the photos from our first visit, joining us for some instant nostalgia.

And if you're keeping score at home, spicy-off number two, like the first, was inconclusive. ☺

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days a week. Patio, licensed. \$\$

**Thomas' Fishermen's Grotto** (9624-76 Ave., 433-3905) Fine dining fish and seafood, featuring the seafood lover's feast for two. Brunch, lunch and dinner. Non-smoking. \$\$\$

## SPANISH

**La Tapa Restaurant & Tapa Bar** (10523-99 Ave., 424-8272) The only Tapa bar in Edmonton! Delicious cuisine from Spain in a casual atmosphere. Specializing in paella and sangria, 24 tapas available. Great menu. The only place to go for a taste of Spain. Smoking in the basement lounge. \$\$

## STEAK AND SEAFOOD

**Mirabelle's** (9929-109 St., 429-3055) One block north of the Legislative Building, this contemporary restaurant specializes in Alberta beef and seafood. Other choices include pasta dishes, lamb, buffalo, veal and fresh fish. The wine list offers a fine selection of wines by the glass or bottle. \$\$\$

**Von's Steak and Fish House** (10309-81 Ave., 439-0041) Alberta beef at its best and great seafood too. Smoking. \$\$\$

## STEAKHOUSE

**Hy's** (10013-101A Ave., 424-4444) Great steaks in a great atmosphere. Non-smoking. \$\$-\$\$\$

**Yeoman's** (10030-107 St., 423-1511) The Beefeater's steakhouse. Smoking in the lounge. \$\$-\$\$\$

## TAPAS

**Savoy** (10401-82 Ave., 438-0373) Located in the heart of Old Strathcona this intimate lounge offers a beautifully simple dinner menu created by Brad and Cindy Lazarenko of Mise en Place Catering. It offers succulent dishes including an extensive tapas menu. Smoking. \$\$

## THAI

**BanThai** (15726-100 Ave., 444-9345) Awarded certificate of authenticity by the Royal Thai Government with an atmosphere to match. Non-smoking. \$\$

**Bua Thai Restaurant** (10049-113 St., 482-2277) Thailand's distinct authentic cuisine of the new stylish restaurant in downtown Edmonton. \$\$\$

**The King and I** (8208-107 St., 433-2222) The King is back! Amazing selection of dishes—spicy and flavourful. Good enough for the Rolling Stones. Non-smoking. \$\$\$

**Krua Wilai Thai Restaurant** (Sterling Pl., 9940-106 St., 424-8303) Our cooks from Bangkok offer you the best and most authentic Thai food in Edmonton. Vegetarian menu available. Smoking. \$\$\$

**Thal Orchid Restaurant** (4005 Gateway Blvd., 438-3344) Serving authentic Thai cuisine from 5pm-9:30pm. Western breakfast & lunch served from 7:30-2pm. Non-smoking. \$\$

**Thal Valley Grill** (9403-98 Ave., 413-9556) Thai cuisine done to your liking (mild, medium or spicy hot!) by Sunita in the heart of Cloverdale. Nibble on Som Tum, savour wonderful Pad Thai and much more. You judge the quality. Enjoy your River Valley. Evening dining from 4.30 on. Non-smoking. \$\$-\$\$\$

## UKRAINIAN

**Pyrogy House** (12510-118 Ave., 454-7880) Pyrogies and cabbage rolls just like Baba used to make. Non-smoking. \$

## VEGETARIAN

**Max's Light Cuisine** (7809-109 St., 432-6241) Great vegetarian dishes including delicious vegan entrees and desserts. \$

**Veggie House** (10508-109 St., 423-4426) Vietnamese vegetarian cuisine. Daily lunch specials. Open Wed-Sat, 11-10. Sun-Mon, 11-9. \$\$

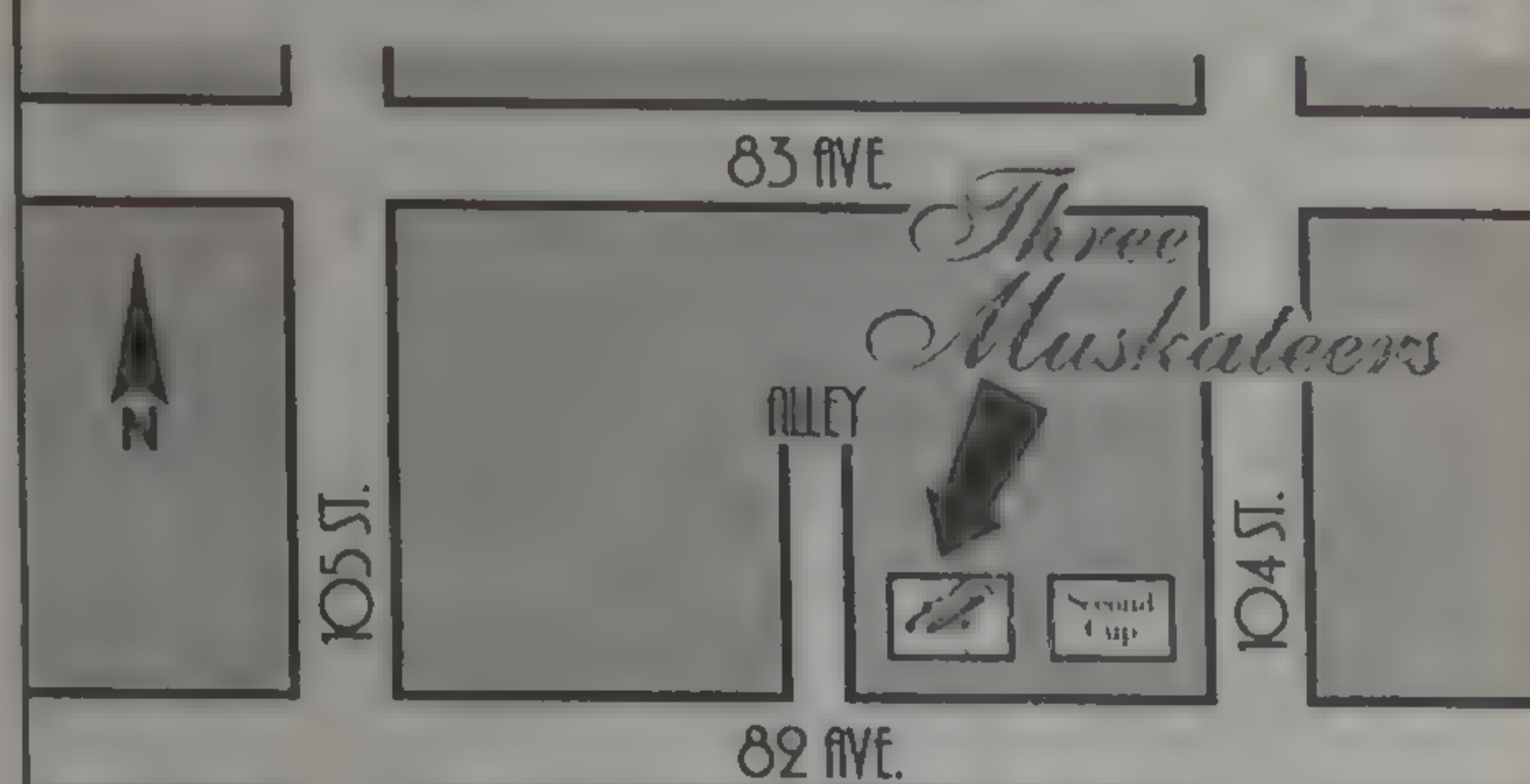
## VIETNAMESE

**Bach Dang** (7908-109 St., 448-0288) Vietnamese noodle house. Non-smoking. \$

**Oriental Noodle House** (10718-101 St., 448-5068) Authentic Vietnamese food in a family-oriented environment. \$

**Tran Tran** (1664 Bourbon St., WEM, 440-0070) In the heart of WEM, great Vietnamese food. \$\$

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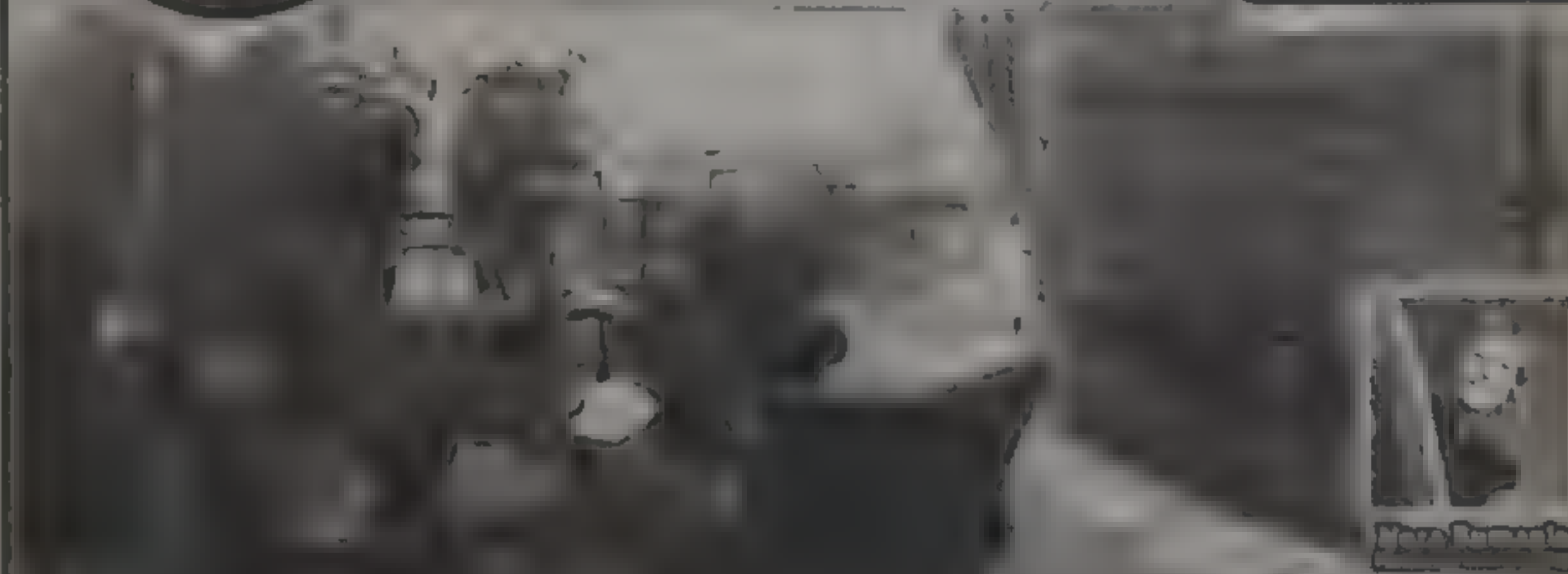
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## DISH WEEKLY

Continued from previous page

**Gallery Bar** (16615-109 Ave., Mayfield Inn & Suites Hotel) Comfortable, cozy after-hours entertainment. '60s-'80s music at its very best Thur-Sat evenings. \$

**Martini's Bar & Grill** (9910-109 St., 424-7219) Enjoy our 25+ custom martinis, 15+ single-malt Scotch collection, evening steak sandwich specials and selection of craft beers all in an environment conducive to relaxation! Non-smoking restaurant. \$-\$\$

**Nathan's Pub & Grill** (8930 Jasper Ave., 421-4446) Great food, large servings and value for your money. Smoking. \$

**Nicholby's** (11066-156 St., 448-2255) Great, eclectic pub fare. Sandwiches, wings, appetizers. \$

**Pub Edmonton Sports Bar** (4225-118 Ave., 471-3526) Edmonton's only Caribbean and continental sports bar. Featuring 11 flavours of wings and the best jerk chicken in the city. Daily specials. Sun, Mon: WWF Wrestling Nite; Wed: karaoke; Fri: Caribbean Nite; Sat: Party Nite. \$

**Red Fox Pub** (7230 Argyle Road, 465-7931) Our comfortable pub offers darts, pool tables coupled with a cozy fireplace in a relaxing setting. Sunday we offer happy hour all day, plus free pool. Non-smoking restaurant, smoking in the pub. \$

**The Sherlock Holmes Pubs** (10012-101A Ave., 8770-170 St., 10341-82 Ave., 5004-98 Ave.) For a taste of the good old times, come on in and try our British and continental menu. Recently revised with nearly 20 new dishes, we'll have something to tempt your tastebuds! Daily specials also offered. \$-\$\$

**The Windsor Bar & Grill** (11702-87 Ave., 433-7800) We are open for lunch and dinner and fun all the time. Pizza is our specialty. Prices and fun can't be beat! Smoking. \$

**Yabbo's Boneyard/ The Library** (11113-87 Ave., 439-4981) Our specialty is Saturday and Sunday brunch. We're open for lunch, dinner and after work, to unwind and have fun. Smoking. \$

## SEAFOOD

**Lighthouse Café** (7331-104 St., 433-0091/5506 Tudor Glen Mkt, 460-2222) Our chefs prepare the freshest seafood in town. Lunch and dinner seven



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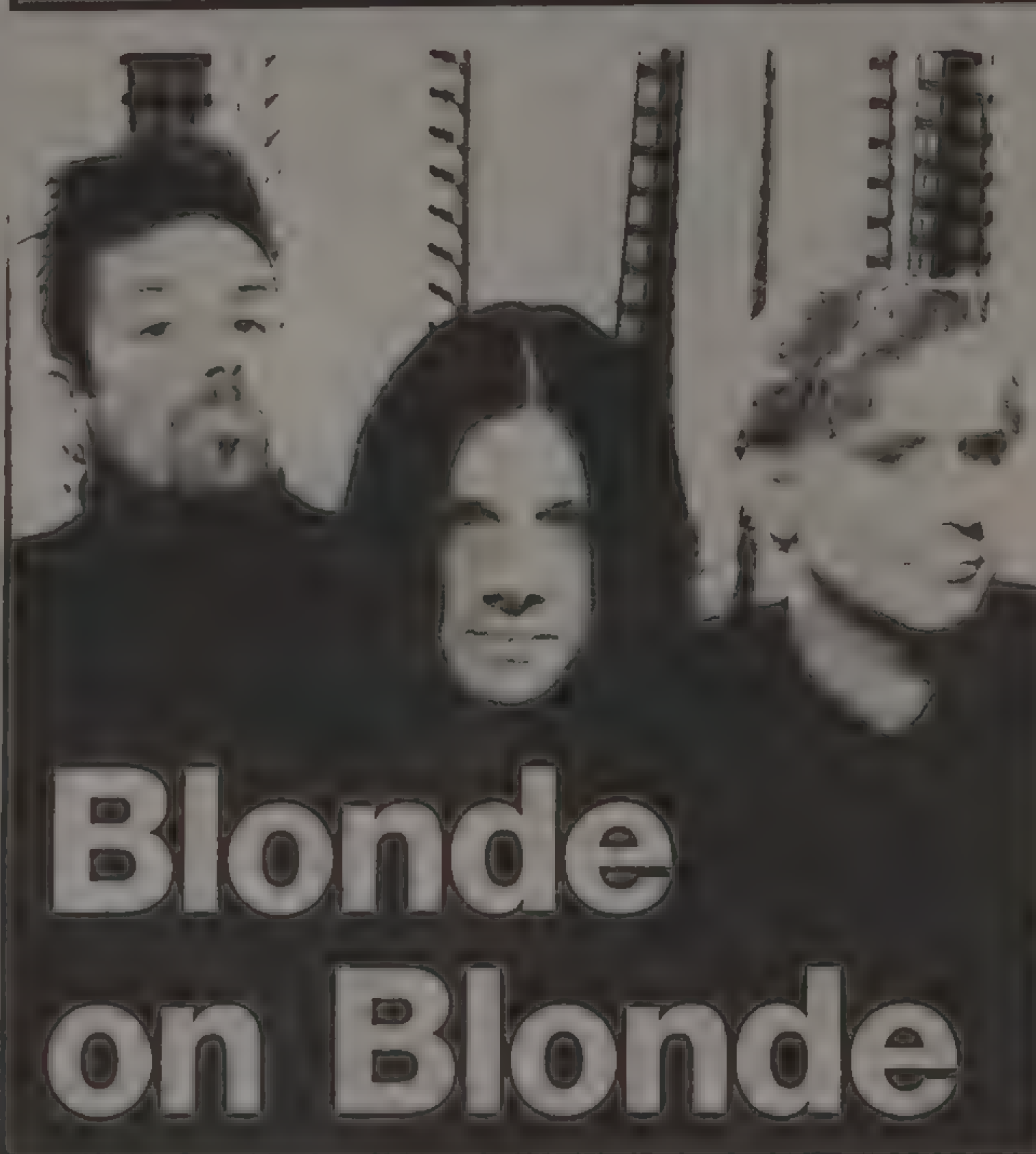
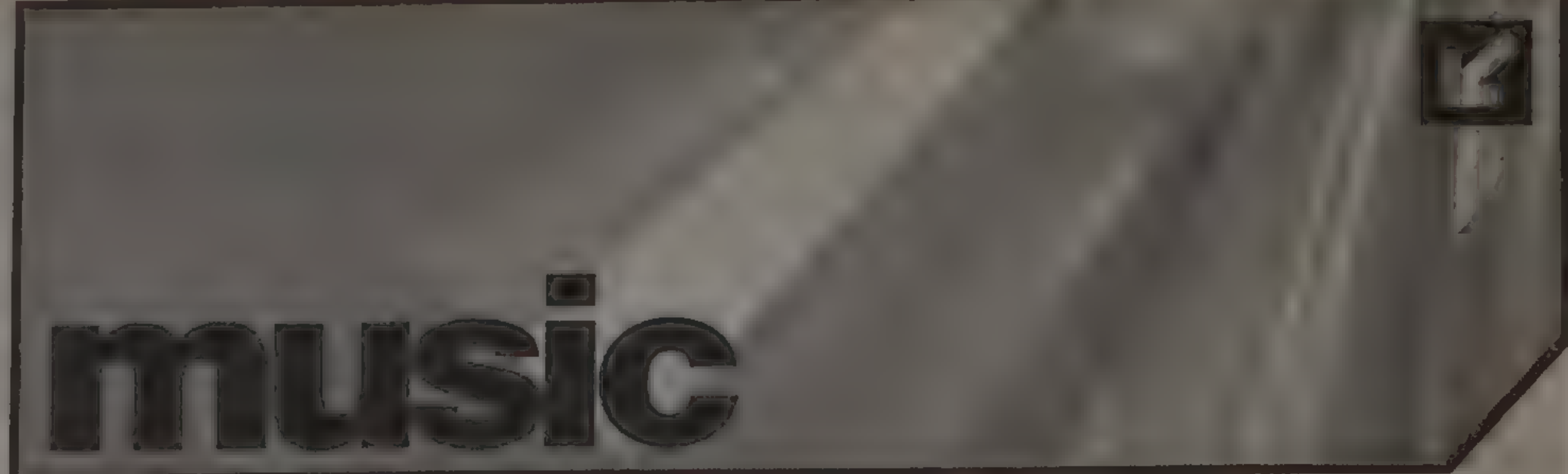
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Reunited Concrete  
Blonde cements  
their reputation with  
new round of touring

BY JENNY FENIAK

**A**fter eight years in retirement, Concrete Blonde have made an abrupt comeback to the world of modern music. But unlike many rebounding bands, it wasn't fame or fortune or even a last flash of ego that brought them together. Instead, the reunion was prompted by nightmares of bombs and lasers, of women and children fleeing and premonitions of doom torturing the mind of Johnette Napolitano. "I interpreted it as a warning of my own death and desperately needed to make a record one more time," the singer explains from her desert home near Joshua Tree, California.

Napolitano immediately set out to find her old bandmates. Guitarist James Mankey, who co-founded the band in 1982 as Dream 6, was tracked down and drummer Harry Rushakoff, who joined the band in 1987 when it became Concrete Blonde, was hauled out of a rehab centre. Napolitano, trusting they wouldn't dismiss her as a fruitcake, laid down her cards and her desire for one last shot as Concrete Blonde. Mankey and Rushakoff decided to try it out and in a matter of days, the work had begun.

"We were all in the middle of personal issues and seeing our respective shrinks," explains Napolitano. "I wasn't capable of doing anything but locking myself in a room for six hours a day and making noise, and then going home and immersing myself in all these words that were fighting to the surface."

The work carried on all summer long and by August the album was finished. Shortly afterward, the terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C. occurred, perhaps explaining Napolitano's premonitions and lending her work a sudden immediacy.



The end result of 2001's hasty unraveling was Concrete Blonde's comeback album, *Group Therapy*, which was officially released early last year. But instead of patting themselves on the back and putting Concrete Blonde to rest for good, the band played on. They took *Group Therapy* on tour, receiving encouraging reviews for their sold-out shows across America. The poetic, post-punk rock crusaders who shone in the late '80s and early '90s had resurfaced and rediscovered their musical momentum—almost.

## The trouble with Harry

Rushakoff, the on-again-off-again drug-abusing drummer, stalled early into the year and was arrested in

August, receiving a 16-month sentence that eliminated him from the band for good. "I hope Harry goes on to do great things he's always been capable of, but we're done with the drama," says Napolitano. "We're not 20-year-old kids anymore. We're in this to make all the music we can, not deal with crap, people vanishing on the road, et cetera. It's old."

Napolitano and Mankey then recruited drummer Gabriel Ramirez from the Spanish rock group Maria Fatal to be Rushakoff's permanent replacement. Their 2002 tour continued and Concrete Blonde found themselves playing in Brazil for the first time. While they were there, Concrete Blonde recorded a double disc, *Live in Brazil*, slated for release this March. This isn't their first brush with the Latin American culture, though—Napolitano says growing up in California instilled a connection with Latin American culture within her and she simply wouldn't feel at home without that influence in her life.

"Latino/Hispanic culture is very heart-driven," she says. "There's a depth and passion that feels natural to me. It could be that the Italian heritage is similar in many ways, but it's an element of my life that is integral." With a second home in Baja California, Mexico, Napolitano has immersed herself in the art and culture of Latin America. In the Mexican province of Chihuahua, she studied pottery with master Juan Quezada, while simultaneously undertaking a serious study of flamenco, even performing *cante* (singing) with her teachers, flamenco artists Mojacar.

## Concrete plans

While they anticipate adding more South American tour dates in Peru, Concrete Blonde is currently in the midst of another studio recording. Napolitano says they learned a lot about what can ruin a good thing the first time around—now it's all about pacing themselves, keeping their balance and, most of all, just enjoying what they're doing. "We've been in this business a long time," she says, "and there's absolutely nothing going on today that hasn't before. Trends come and go. Companies rise and fall. The music lasts forever."

In other words, what started as a horrific nightmare for Napolitano ended up a sweet epiphany. "Life is short," she concludes. "It's important to make all you can while you're here." ☺

Concrete Blonde  
With the *Ghettoblasters*, •, Red's •  
Thu, Jan 23





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world

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### ALTERNATIVE

**NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE** 10079 Jasper Ave., Paladium Building, 413-4578. FRI 17: Downway, Wisconsin, 10 Second Epic. FRI 24: Bill Bourne, Tippy Agogo.

**POWER PLANT** U of A Campus, 492-2048. SAT 18 (8:30pm door): Chi Sun (CD release party). \$6 @ the door.

**STARS** 10545-82 Ave., 434-5366. THU 16: Fat Dave, Snak Pak. FRI 17: Leto, Farlaid Affair, iDrop. SAT 18: Mad Banger Society, Joey and the Insta Punks, Dime Store Poet. WED 22: Shawn McNasty's MoltenMetal Mayhem.

### BLUES AND ROOTS

**THE ATLANTIC TRAP AND GILL** 7704-104 St., 432-4611. •Every THU (9pm): Open mic. FRI 24-SAT 25: Chuck Rose.

**THE BACKDRAUGHT PUB** 8307-99 ST., 430-9200. •Every THU (8-11pm): Open mic hosted by Mad Chadd.

**THE BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE** 10425 Whyte Ave., 439-1082. •Every SAT (4-6pm): Hair of the Dog. No cover. •Every Wed: Glitter Gulch Wednesdays w/Buster Friendly and Trucker Bunty. No cover. SAT 18 (4-6pm): The George Bushes. No cover. SAT 25 (4-6pm): Rachelle Van Zanten, LaDiDa (Painting Daisies). No cover.

**BLUES ON WHYTE** Commercial Hotel, 10329 Whyte Ave., 439-5058. THU 16-SAT 18: Mocking Shadows. SUN 19: House Party Blues Band featuring Harpdog Brown, Ken Hoffman, Graham Guest.

**CAPITOL HILL PUB** 14203 Stony Plain Rd., 454-3063. FRI 17-SAT 18: Elsie Osborne.

**FILTHY McNASTY'S PUBLIC HOUSE** 10511-82 Ave., 432-5224. •Every SUN: Open stage hosted by Mike Caton. •Every MON: Metal Mondays hosted by the Bear's Yukon Jack. •Every WED: Boogie Nites.

**FLYBAR** 10314-104 St., 421-0992. •Every MON (9pm-12): Open stage.

**44 MAGNUM CLUB** 8318-144 Ave., 475-8702. •Every SAT: Open Stage Jams. All bands, singers and musicians welcome.

**GRINDER** 10957-124 St. FRI 17-SAT 18 (9pm-1am): The Dangerous Guise.

**JASPER PLACE HOTEL** 15326 Stony Plain Rd., 489-1906. THU 16-SAT 18: Hugh Betcha and His Okie Dokie Orchestra. SAT 18 (3-6pm): Showcase: Emu Enchilada (Steely Dan tribute), Blue 7 (fusion blues).

**MEZZA LUNA LATIN CLUB** 10238-104 St., 423-LUNA. •Every WED and THU (9-11pm): Latin dance lessons. •Every weekend: Live Latin music.

**O'BYRNE'S** 10616 Whyte Avenue, 414-6766. •Every MON (9:30pm): Industry night w/Suchy Sisters. •Every TUE (9:30pm): Live Irish Jam w/Shannon Johnson and friends. •Every WED (9:30pm): Chris Wynters. No cover.

**OTTEWELL PUB** 6108-90 Ave., 450-5953, 970-7063. •Every THU: Battle of the Bands.

**PLEASANTVIEW HALL** 10860-57 Ave., 434-5997. •Every THU (7pm): Wild Rose Old Time Fiddlers Association jam session.

**SCRUFFY MURPHY'S IRISH PUB** Whittemud Crossing, 485-1717. •Every MON (9:30pm): Open stage hosted by Chris Wynters. •Every TUE: Industry Night.

**SECOND CUP** 10303 Jasper Ave., 424-7468. •Every THU (7:30-10:30pm): Acoustic open stage hosted by Ron Taylor.

**SECOND CUP AT CALLINGWOOD** Callingwood Square, 6825-177th St., 486-1999. •Every WED (8pm): Open Stage hosted by Richard Monkman and Erroll Zastre.

**SEEDY'S** 10314-104 St., 421-0992. •Every SAT: Live music. SAT 18: Hills Have Eyes, The Taylor Dons.

**SIDETRACK CAFÉ** 10333-112 St., 421-1326. •Every THU (7-9pm): What Happens Next? (comedy improv show) hosted by Graham Neil of CFRN TV, starring Donovan Workun of Atomic Improv. •Every SAT (3-7pm): Afternoons at the Sidetrack: Hosted by Tim Lent. Special guests and a jam. All-ages event, kids welcome. No cover. •Every SUN (8pm): Sunday Night Live: Punchline Scramble! The Comedy Game Show. THU 16: Weather Report. \$4 cover. FRI 17: Lost

Action Heroes. \$6 cover. SAT 18: The Three Kings, The Two Jacks. \$6 cover. SUN 19: Sunday Night Live: Punchline Scramble! Firewater, DJ Dudeman. \$6 cover. MON 20-WED 22: Rowdymen (rockabilly). No cover. THU 23: Sugakane. \$4 cover. FRI 24: Honeymoon Suite. TIX \$10 adv., \$12 @ door. SAT 25: Schematics w/Freeman. \$6 cover. SUN 26: Sunday Night Live: Punchline Scramble! Mystika, DJ Dudeman. \$6 cover.

**ST. THOMAS CAFÉ** 44 St. Thomas St., 458-8225. •First THU (7:30-11:00pm) ea. month: Acoustic open stage hosted by Penny and Jim Malmberg. •Every FRI: Jazz Night.

**SUGARBOWL CAFÉ AND BAR** 10922-88 Ave., 433-8369. •Every 2nd SUN (2-5pm): PROxyBOY (live chill-out electronic). •Every SUN (8:30pm): Brett Miles presents Rise. Inspirational instrumentals (pass the hat). FRI 17: Ben Sures Trio. FRI 24: Scarves, Pilot Light, Geoff Hawrayluk.

**TIM'S GRILL** 7106-109 St., 413-9606. •Every SAT: Open stage hosted by Dan Meunier. FRI 17 (9:30pm): Mike Sadava, Cam Neufeld. No cover.

**UNCLE GLEN'S EATERY AND SPORTS PUB** 7666-156 St., 481-3192. FRI 17-SAT 18 (9:30pm-1:30am): Mr. Lucky (blues, boogie, R&B). No cover.

**THE UPTOWN FOLK CLUB** Woodcroft Community Hall, 13915-115 Ave., 436-1554. FRI 17 (7pm sign-up): Open Stage. TIX members free, non-members \$3.

### CLASSICAL

**ALBERTA COLLEGE CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC** 3 Muttart Hall, Alberta College Campus, Grant MacEwan College, 423-6230. SUN 19 (2pm): Spectrum Concert Series: Dissolution, Revolution, Evolution. TIX \$15 adult/senior, \$10 student @ door. •429-1000. SUN 26 (2pm): Opera Overture: *The Mikado*. TIX \$8.

**ARDEN THEATRE** St. Albert, 459-1542. THU 23 (7:30pm): Quartango. TIX \$22.50, youth/senior \$19.50.

**CONVOCATION HALL** U of A Campus, 492-0601, 420-1757. SAT 18 (8pm): Edmonton Chamber Music Society presents the St. Lawrence Quartet. Geoff Nuttall, Barry Shiffman (violin), Lesley Robertson (viola), Marina Hoover (cello). SUN 26: Faculty and Friends. TIX @ TIX on the Square.

**EDMONTON ART GALLERY** Sir Winston Churchill Sq., 420-1757. SUN 26 (7pm): Salon Series: Lidia Khaner (obo), Janet Scott Hoyt (piano). TIX @ TIX on the Square.

**EDMONTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Winspear Centre, 4 Sir Winston Churchill Sq., 428-1414. FRI 17-SAT 18 (8pm): The Pops: How My Heart Sings: Barbara Leah Meyer, David Hoyt. TIX start \$22. Student/senior discounts available. THU 23 (8pm): Lighter Classics: Rolf Bertsch (conductor), Richard Raymond (piano). TIX start \$22. Student and senior discounts. \$15 student rush tickets available one hour prior to concert. SAT 25 (8pm): Symphony for Kids: *The Twins and the Monster*. David Hoyt (conductor). Music by John Estacio. Story by Tololwa Mollel. TIX start \$10 kid, \$14 adult.

**MCDUGALL UNITED CHURCH** Banquet hall, 10025-101 St., 468-4964. WED 22 (12:10 to 12:50): Music Wednesdays at Noon: Joel Gray, Sylvia Shadick-Taylor (trumpet and piano). Free.

**MULTICULTURAL HERITAGE CENTRE** Settler's Cabin, Stony Plain, 963-2777. THU 23 (7:30pm door): Cabin Fever Series: D'Arcy Greaves. TIX \$18.

**ROBERTSON-WESLEY UNITED CHURCH** 10209-123 St., 420-1757. SUN 26: Baroque Suites for the Stage: Alberta Baroque Ensemble. TIX @ TIX on the Square.

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Rault Brothers  
Band  
Jambone  
Sat, Jan 18  
Recollection  
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**SPORTSMANS Club**



**MUSIC WEEKLY**  
Continued from previous page

**INSPIRE CENTRE** 4 Sir Winston Churchill Sq., 102 Ave., 99 St., www.metalphosis.home-page.org. THU 16 (8pm): Metamorphosis w/Grzegorz Wak. TIX @ TicketMaster.

**CLUBS**

**BARRY T'S GRAND CENTRAL STATION** 11-104 St., 438-2582. •Every WED/FRI: 10-11:40 w/DJ Damian. •Every SAT: 8:00-11:00 w/DJ Damian.

**CASINO EDMONTON** 9055 Argyll Ave., 463-9467. FRI 17-SAT 18: Spiral (pop/rock). FRI 24-SAT 25: McCoil & Bloomer.

**CASINO YELLOWHEAD** 12464-153 Ave., 463-9467. THU 16-SAT 18: Joanna Purr (pop/rock). THU 23-SAT 25: DJ Out.

**CLUB DU SOLEIL** Silver Slipper, 488-4144. Singles club.

**DEVIL'S MARTINI BAR** 10507-82 Ave., 437-7489. •Every SUN: DJ Diabolic. •The in sounds from way out.

**GALLERY LOUNGE** Mayfield Inn, 16615-19 Ave., 484-0821. •Every THU-SAT: DJ Steve.

**PUMP** 10166-114 St., 488-4841. •Every TUE/WED: Karaoke. •Every THU-SAT: DJ.

**GREENHOUSE NIGHTCLUB** Neighbourhood Inn, 13103 Fort Rd., 472-9898. •Every WED-SAT: DJ Travis.

**THE JOINT** WEM, 486-3013, 451-8000. •Every SAT: Power 92 live on location. •Every FRI: Fresh Fridays: Urban Metropolis and Crew. No minors.

**NASHVILLE'S ELECTRIC ROADHOUSE** 489-1330. Top 40, country and dance music. SAT 25: Edwin, King Ring Nancy. TIX \$15 adv. @ TicketMaster.

**THE ROOST** 10345-104 St., 426-3150. •U: Charity Show night. Different show every week w/DJ Jazzy. FRI: Upstairs: Twisted Fruit w/DJs Sweetz, Tripswitch, Laro and guests. SAT: Upstairs: DJ Jazzy. Downstairs: XTC. SUN: Betty Ford. •New Year's Eve: Clinic Show w/DJ Jazzy.

**SONIC AFTER DARK** 9920-62 Ave., 48-2877. Las Vegas-style nightclub. •Every FRI: Fluid Friday's Surreal Saturdays. Hosted by DJ Philler.

**CONCERTS**

**THE ALBERTA ROOTS MUSIC SOCIETY** Bonnie Doon Community Hall, 9240-93 St., 420-1757. •SAT, Jan. 25: Kubasonics, Le' Fuzz w/ Karla Anderson. TIX \$12 adv., \$15 @ door. Adv. tickets @ Blackbyrd Myoozik, Myhre's Music, Sound Connection or TIX on the Square. •SAT, Jan. 26: Jo Whitley, The New Old Boys, RMB (roots music band). TIX \$12 adv., \$15 @ door. Adv. tickets @ Blackbyrd Myoozik, Myhre's Music, Sound Connection, TIX on the Square. •SAT, Feb. 2: Wendy McNeill (CD fundraising concert). TIX \$12 adv., \$15 @ door. Adv. tickets @ Blackbyrd Myoozik, Myhre's Music, Sound Connection, TIX on the Square.

**ARDEN THEATRE** 5 St. Anne St., St. Albert, 459-1542. •THU, Jan. 23 (7:30pm): Quartango. •SUN, Jan. 26 (7:30pm): Barachois. •SUN, Jan. 26 (2pm): Family Series: Barachois.

**COAST EDMONTON PLAZA** 10155-105 Ave., 488-5043. •FRI, Feb. 14 (5:30pm): Valentine Heart Ball: Rollanda Lee and the Canadian All-Stars Jazz Band, Corrie McFarlane. TIX \$35 (dinner/dance), \$15 (dance only).

**FESTIVAL PLACE** 100 Festival Way, Greenwood Park, 449-3378, 451-8000. •FRI, Jan. 31: Michael Burgess (contemporary Broadway). TIX \$28.

**FULL MOON FOLK CLUB** St. Basil's Cultural Centre, 10819-71 Ave., 420-1157. •FRI, Jan. 24: The Co-Dependents. •Adv. tickets @ TIX on the Square, Southside Sound.

**HORIZON STAGE** Spruce Grove, 962-4995. •Jan. 16-18 (7:30pm): Ian Tyson (country). TIX \$30. •Jan. 24 (7:30pm), Jan. 25 (2pm): Barachois (trad. Acadian). TIX \$20 adult, \$15 student/senior. •Evening, \$8 matinee.

**THE IRISH CLUB** 12546-126 St., 453-249. •SAT, Feb. 15 (8pm): North Sea. TIX \$15.

**JUBILEE AUDITORIUM** 11455-87 Ave., 451-8000. •FRI, Feb. 14 (6:30pm door; 7:30pm show): Carolyn Dawn Johnson. •D. Keith Urban, w/ Jimmy Rankin (country). TIX \$39.50, \$49.50 @ TicketMaster. •Id out.

**MACLAB THEATRE** The Citadel, www.edmontonragamala.ab.ca. •SAT, Jan. 25 (8pm): The Silk Road Tour: Ghazal Ensemble (Trio, Persian and Indian improvisations). TIX @ Citadel box office.

**NORTHERN LIGHTS FOLK CLUB** Queen Alexandra Community Hall, 10425 University Ave., 438-2736. •SAT, Jan. 18 (7pm door; 8pm show): Shari Ulrich, RMB. TIX \$14 adv. @ Myhre's Music, Acoustic Music Shop. \$16 @ door.

**RED'S** WEM, 481-6420, 451-8000. •THU, Jan. 23: Concrete Blonde. No minors. •FRI, Jan. 31 (7pm door; 9:15pm show): Steve Earle and the Dukes. TIX \$35 @ TicketMaster.

**SKYREACH CENTRE** 451-8000. •Jan. 23: Toby Keith, Rascal Flatts. TIX \$45.50, \$55.50 @ TicketMaster. •TUE, Jan. 28. Our Lady Peace, Trailer Park Boys, Seether. TIX @ TicketMaster.

**THE UPTOWN FOLK CLUB** Woodcroft Community Hall, 13915-115 Ave., 436-1554. •FRI, Jan. 31 (8pm concert; 7:30pm door): Rod Olstad, Bonnie Gregory, Matt Hotte.

**WEST END CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH** 10015-149 St., 420-1757. •SAT, Feb. 1 (2pm and 7pm): Stories: Presented by Kokopelli. Oran (Kokopelli's Alumni Choir), Halcyon Youth Choir (from Regina), Juba. TIX \$12 adult, \$10 senior/student @ TIX on the Square.

**COUNTRY**

**WILD WEST SALOON** 12912-50 St., 476-3388. •Every WED (8-9:30pm): Beginner dance lessons. •Every THU (7:30-9:30pm): Intermediate dance lessons.

**JAZZ**

**FOUR ROOMS RESTAURANT** Edmonton Centre, 102 Ave. Entrance, 426-4767. THU 16: Soma Trio. FRI 17-SAT 18: Kelly Alanna Trio. THU 23: Salsito. FRI 24-SAT 25: Dawn Chubai.

**FOUR ROOMS RESTAURANT** 28 Mission Ave., St. Albert, 460-6688. FRI 17-SAT 18: Dawn Chubai. FRI 24: Kelly Alanna Trio. SAT 25: Liz Han Trio.

**JULIAN'S PIANO BAR** Chateau Louis Hotel, 11727 Kingsway Ave., 732-4583. •Every WED (9:30-11:30pm): Wednesday late nite jazz with Graham J.

**MCDUGALL UNITED CHURCH** 10025-101 St. SAT 25 (8pm): All that Jazz: I Coristi w/Bill Richards Trio. TIX \$15, \$10 student/senior @ TIX on the Square, The Gramophone, @ door.

**YARDBIRD SUITE** 10203 Tommy Banks Way, 432-0428, 451-8000. •Every TUE (8pm door): Jam sessions. FRI 17-SAT 18 (8pm door): James 'Super Chikan' Johnson. TIX \$11 member, \$15 guest. TUE 21 (8pm door): Tuesday jam session: Aaron Keys. TIX \$2 member, guest. TUE 28 (8pm): Tuesday jam session: John Roggensack. TIX \$2 member, guest.

**ZENARI'S ON 1ST** 10117-101 St., 425-6151. FRI 17 (8pm-midnight): Charlie Austin Trio. \$5/person min. charge.

**PIANO BARS**

**CROWN AND DERBY** 13103 Fort Rd., 478-2971. THU 16-FRI 17: Chuck Belhuimer.

**JULIAN'S PIANO BAR** Chateau Louis Hotel, 11727 Kingsway, 732-4583. •Every WED (9:30-11:30pm): Late Nite Jazz with Graham J. •Every FRI (5-8pm): Unwind with Gary Bowman.

**ROSE AND CROWN PUB** Sheraton Grande Edmonton Hotel, 10235-101 St., 441-3036. THU 16-FRI 17: Chuck Belhuimer. WED 22-FRI 24: Tim Becker.

**SHERLOCK HOLMES CAPILANO** Capilano Mall, 5004-98 Ave., 463-7788. •Every THU and SAT: Celtic night. THU 16-SAT 18: Jimmy Whiffen. THU 23-SAT 25: Dave Hiebert.

**SHERLOCK HOLMES DOWNTOWN** Rice Howard Way, 10012-101A Ave., 426-7784. THU 16-SAT 18: Dave Hiebert. TUE 21-SAT 25: Derick Sigurdson.

**SHERLOCK HOLMES WEM** Bourbon St., W.E.M., 444-1752. THU 16-SAT 18: Tim Becker. MON 20-SAT 25: Sam August.

**SHERLOCK HOLMES ON WHYTE** 10341-82 Ave., 433-9676. •Every THU and SAT: Celtic night. FRI 17-SAT 18: Boom Boom Kings. FRI 24-SAT 25: Jimmy Whiffen.

**POP AND ROCK**

Also see Club Weekly on page 28.

**FOX AND HOUNDS** 10125-109 St., 423-2913. SAT 18: The Orogues, Trixie Firecracker, The Knoxvilles. FRI 24: The Cursed, Indian Police. SAT 25: Por-Nada, Fractal Pattern, The Bedtime Teens.

**HIGHRUB CLUB** 4926-98 Ave., 440-2233. FRI 17-SAT 18: Reagan's Cousin. FRI 24-SAT 25: Doug Jensen and Feel Kings.

**HONEST MUR'S BAR AND GRILL** 8937-82 Ave., 463-6397. •Every THU/FRI: Live bands.

**IRON HORSE** 8101-103 St., 438-1907. THU 16: Good Morning Winston.

**J.J.'S PUB** 13160-118 Ave., 451-9180. FRI 24: Freeman, Theceptions (rock). SAT 25: Naughty Divas (rock).

**KINGSKNIGHT PUB** 9221-34 Ave., 433-2599. THU 16: Chunk. FRI 17-SAT 18: Monkey's Uncle. THU 23: King Ring Nancy. FRI 24-SAT 25: Rhythm Slave.

**LONGRIDER'S** 11733-78 St., 479-7400. •Every TUE: Live traditional country music hosted by Bev Munro. •Every WED-SAT: Top 40 country, dance, classic rock. •Every THU: Thursty Thursday w/DJ Doc Lou. FRI 17-SAT 18: Headpins, Ten Inch Men. TIX \$8 Adv.

**SPORTSMANS LOUNGE** 5708-75 St., 413-8333. SAT 18 (9:30pm): The Rault Brothers. No cover. SAT 25: Jambone.

**URBAN LOUNGE** 8111-105 St., 439-3388. •Every TUE: Urban Unplugged. THU 16-SAT 18: Granny Dynamite. No cover Thu; \$5 cover Sat. THU 23-SAT 25: Exit 303. Thu no cover. Sat \$5 cover.

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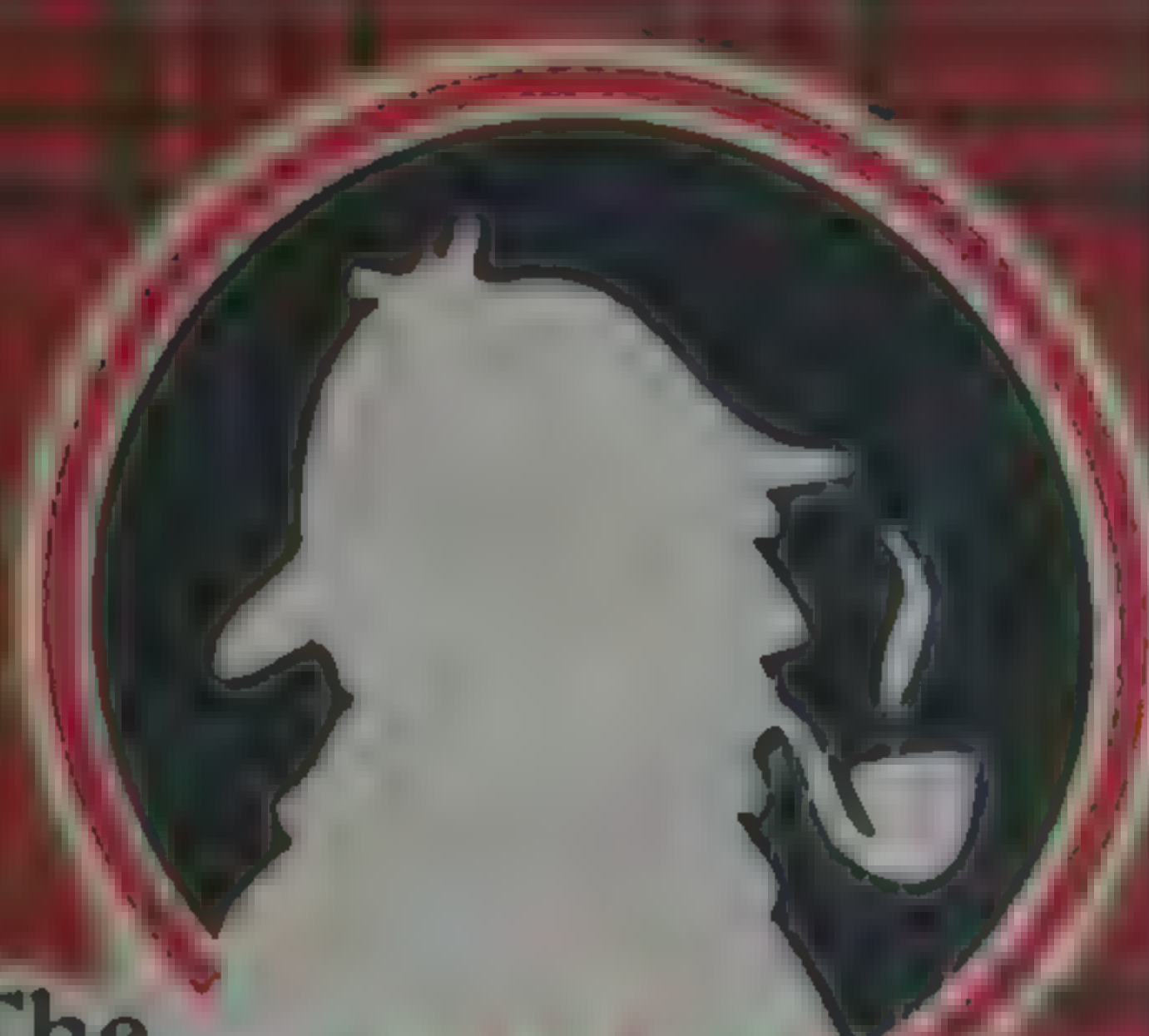
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TICKETMASTER  
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## MUSIC NOTES



all about  
the local  
scene

By **PHIL DUPERRON**

### ...And justice for all?

Multi-millionaire rock stars Metallica continue to put more energy into lawsuits than their music with their decision to sue yet another copyright violator—this time, an Edmonton band also called Metallica. The local Metallica, which sounds nothing like their famous namesakes, has received a cease-and-desist order from the famous band's lawyers regarding their use of the name, claim-

ing the action infringes on a number of Canadian and American copyright laws.

Despite the fact that such a letter seemed inevitable, band frontman Blair Piggott expresses some surprise at the development. "I never thought that anyone would find out about a little town like Edmonton—especially somewhere like L.A.," he laughs. "We just figured that nobody would pay attention, but obviously somebody has."

For a band that chose their name on a whim, getting this kind of attention from Metallica seems like praise. "I sent Metallica's lawyer a letter saying we are totally stoked that you found out about us," explains Blair, "and we'd be really happy if you guys could review our MP3s and send back some comments. I really liked the song 'Harvester of Sorrow'.... It's kind of such a shame that they've progressed from that to guys who are 'commercially friendly.'"

But what will the local Metallica do now that the big boys are threatening them with Johnny Law? "I never really wanted this to be something that would keep me up at night, so I'm just gonna sort of wait it out," insists Blair,

who plans on talking to a lawyer. He admits that they will probably have to change their name. However, a snide voice inside him continues to tell him to push the limits. "I kinda think we should just call ourselves the name," he says, "just to fuck with people, 'cuz it's funny." —JAMES ELFORD

### Hello, Wisconsin!

**Wisconsin • With Downway** at 10 Second Epic • New City • Fri, Jan 17 How does a five-piece hard-rock band from Toronto end up being named after an American state more famous for its dairy products than its musical output? Singer Paul Harris joined Wisconsin after it was named, but he's more than willing to share some history from a frigid phone booth on the outskirts of Winnipeg. "The name," he says, "came from a gig they thought went terribly, terribly awry and they considered it very cheesy. So they figured, 'Why don't we call ourselves Wisconsin?' It seems to go along with our affinity for beer, cheese and whatnot." Well, someone out there must

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## GRANNY DYNAMITE

THURSDAY-SATURDAY  
JANUARY 16-18

FRIDAY JANUARY 17 **ENGINEERING WEEK WRAP-UP**  
**GRANNY DYNAMITE**  
AND THE WINNING ENG WEEK BAND

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 22 **BLIND MASTER POE**

**EXIT 303** THURSDAY-SATURDAY  
JANUARY 23-25

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 29 **KYBOSH**

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** JANUARY 30: REAGAN'S COUSIN  
FEBRUARY 17: 6TH ANNUAL FLAIR COMPETITION. BARTENDERS GET YOUR ENTRIES IN

Urban  
lounge  
whisky grill

8111-105ST • 439-3388



...e thought these guys had more to  
...the world than potshots at Amer-  
...s Dairyland. After all, they recorded  
...ir first full-length disc, *Rhymes*  
...hout Reason, at Chemical Sound in  
...onto with producer Ian Blurton of  
...onic and Blurtonia fame.

Harris says that working with Blur-  
...n got off to a bit of a rocky start. The  
...teran guitarist showed up to the  
...nd's practice space during pre-pro-  
...ction with nothing more than a  
...tebook in hand. After watching the  
...ys belt out some of their tunes, he  
...me up with a long list of things to  
...ke out and move around. "At the  
...me," Harris says, "I was like, 'Who the  
...ll do you think you are doing this to  
...our songs?' In retrospect, it couldn't  
...ave worked out better. Our songs  
...ame shorter and more concise. We  
...et out all the fat and gristle. He's got  
...uite an ear in the studio; he really  
...nows his stuff. He's really good with  
...ick guitar sounds, so we got to use all  
...nds of amps none of us could afford  
...own, but that he had access to."

Harris says Blurton's influence  
...elped transform the band's music into  
...a full-blown wall of sound, often with  
...three guitars playing onstage at the  
...ame time. It was enough to get Univer-  
...al Music's attention. The heavyweight  
...bel distributed *Rhymes Without Reason*,  
...etting it coveted shelf space in HMV  
...ores across the country. "It technically  
...ppears as though we're signed to Uni-  
...rsal, even though we're not," says  
...Harris. "Our album has Universal's name  
...n it, but we're still an independent."

Unfortunately, the HMV deal ends  
...n February, after which Wisconsin will  
...be forced to head out on their first full  
...our in the middle of winter and do the  
...gwork themselves. "It's not as bad as  
...people think," he says. As if on cue, the  
...band's van crapped out just before the  
...tour, allowing them the luxury of a reli-  
...able rental—which has certainly helped  
...them cope with the prospect of being  
...trapped together 24/7. "Normally we  
...can't sit in the same room for 20 min-  
...utes without arguing about some-  
...thing," Harris says, "and so far we  
...haven't had a single [argument], and  
...it's been four or five days."

#### iDROP the beat

**iDROP • With Leto and Farcus**  
**Affair • Stars • Fri, Jan 17** Some-  
...times a short phone conversation and a  
...couple of MP3 files aren't enough to  
...really get a feel for a band. So when  
...iDROP's guitarist Mitch Zorich invites  
...me down to the band's practice space  
...for an interview and then sweetens the  
...pot with offers of beer, I agree. Down in  
...the bowels of the infamous Studio  
...City—where a microcosm of bands bash  
...out all manner of noise—I meet the rest  
...of the band: singer Will Ewart, six-string  
...bass player Arron Petrie and the latest  
...addition, drummer Dave Rebus. All but  
...Rebus have used the space as iDROP  
...and previously as Trip Hammer) for the  
...past few years. The tattered couches,  
...posters of naked women and overflow-  
...ing ashtrays speak volumes about the  
...band's comfort zone. It's obviously their  
...home away from home.

"It's totally cool," says Zorich,  
...because most musicians are totally  
...different from most people. And when  
...you come here, you actually end up in  
...rooms with people who are like you.  
...You get to hear a lot of bands—tons  
...of different music. It exposes you to a

lot of different things."

After kindly handing me a fresh set  
...of earplugs, the band gets down to  
...business, running through a handful of  
...songs. A heavy mix of bass and guitar  
...riffs seamlessly running into melodic,  
...moody vocals fills the tiny room. Since  
...Rebus joined the band six months ago  
...they've reinvented themselves—in  
...fact, the songs they played me are so  
...new they don't have names and still  
...have to be identified by number. "We  
...wanted to start fresh," says Petrie.  
..."Someone new in the band brings  
...new ideas, which can make you better.  
...I like the songs we're doing now better  
...than what we did before."

While iDROP's rumbling yet deli-  
...cate sound is nothing new, they're fol-  
...lowing their hearts, not a trend.  
..."Ultimately you gotta love the music,"  
...says Petrie. "I know some people  
...who've gone into a band just because  
...their songs sound like they can get on  
...the radio and hopefully that will take  
...them somewhere. But is their heart  
...truly into doing that form of music?"  
...Rebus compares it to someone wan-  
...dering through the underground blind-  
...ly picking up and reacting to anything  
...people say is cool. "Once you forget  
...about that, then you actually find your-  
...self going into territories where you  
...feel comfortable articulating yourself.  
...That's where a smooth sound in any  
...band comes from. Are they enjoying  
...what they're playing? I think we've all  
...kind of been through some shit, so we  
...figured out we might as well be our-  
...selves and just express it."

"I want the music to have emotion,"  
...says Zorich. "Any kind of emotion,  
...whether it's happiness, sadness or anx-  
...iety. Anything. Any kind of feeling you  
...can get. You have to. It has to have it."

#### Banger management problem

**Mad Banger Society • With Joey**  
**and the Insta Punks and Dime**  
**Store Poets • Stars • Sat, Jan 18**  
Despite rumours linking Mad Banger  
...Society to Edmonton's own Mad  
...Bomber Society, frontman Jack Uzi  
...assures me none of the tales are true.  
...When I talked to him, he was flying in  
...from yet another drug-fueled sex party  
...in Amsterdam. The Mad Bangers hail  
...from the steel pits of Pittsburgh, where,  
...Uzi says, "There's nothing better to do  
...than make metal and play metal." The  
...band (Uzi, bassist Keith Gash, drummer  
...Eddie Stag and lead guitarist D.D. Right-  
...eous) started playing hairspray metal  
...way back in '72 when Poison were still  
...putting make-up on their Barbie dolls.

"We were there when metal was  
...about to break and when it did break,"  
...Uzi says. "And even though it's going  
...downhill now, we're still climbing up.  
...We just got off a tour in Japan that was  
...sold out every night. We're huge in  
...Japan, Europe and South Africa [where  
...Uzi claims the band got a sponsorship  
...deal from Durex]. It's kind of funny that  
...every time we play Edmonton it's for a  
...hockey benefit. Seems like all the hock-  
...ey players in Edmonton love us. But  
...overseas—I tell you, it's the girls who  
...are paying our bills."

Uzi bristles at the suggestion guys  
...dressed in spandex aren't as cool in the  
...21st century as they were in the '80s. "I  
...tell you, dude, we lay more chicks than  
...Mother Goose—you betcha," he spits.  
..."More ass than a toilet seat. The chicks  
...are just turned on by guys like us who

wear lots of makeup and charge their  
...hair up, because if they don't want to  
...talk about their tits or our dicks any-  
...more—they can just talk about makeup  
...and hairspray with us. Dee Snider's slo-  
...gan was 'Always look like chicks, sing like  
...dudes and act like motherfuckers.' That's  
...a creed to live by. Chicks are more in  
...touch with guys who look like them."

What about the ultra-macho look of  
...modern metal? Don't guys with shaved  
...heads and scary tattoos know how to  
...rock? "It's all garbage," says Uzi. "That  
...ain't metal. That's nü-metal. Anything  
...with an umlaut in it besides Motörhead  
...and Motley Crüe can suck it."

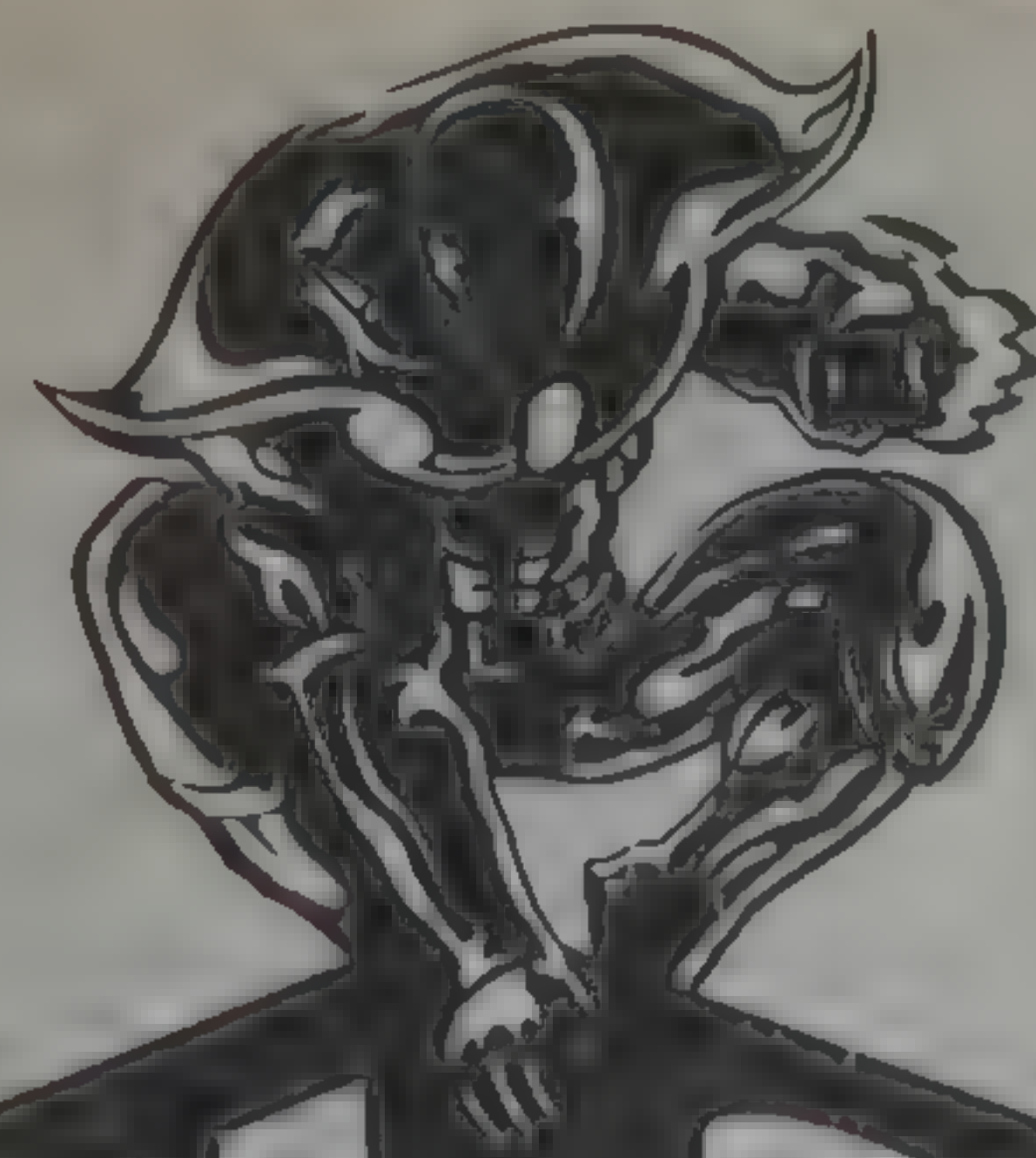
#### Rowdy can't fail

**The Rowdymen • Sidetrack Café •**  
**Mon-Wed, Jan 20-22** From the frozen  
...shores of Lake Winnipeg come the Row-  
...dymen, who arrive in Edmonton in the  
...midst of dreary January with the goal of  
...warming things up. They're a foursome  
...who play traditional roots/rockabilly  
...music, and their debut disc *Rowdy Duty*  
...introduced the world to the band's  
...high-octane blend of old-fashioned rock  
...'n' roll and prairie twang. Singer/gui-  
...tarist Jason Allen says they're in the stu-  
...dio putting the finishing touches on  
...their follow-up disc, *Rubberneckin'*,  
...which should be out by March.

The Rowdymen have been rocking  
...it up since 1997, but Allen says things  
...really started to take off this past sum-  
...mer. In July he was finally able to quit  
...his day job and commit full time to  
...the music. While he stresses that he's  
...not riding around in a stretch limo or  
...anything, making a modest living  
...onstage sure beats a greasy low-wage  
...job. "It's fantastic," he says. "I'm lov-  
...ing every day. I was really afraid when  
...I first quit my job to do it, but now it's  
...levelled off and everything is going  
...good." While the band does all right  
...playing in their hometown, Allen says  
...the real gravy comes when they're out  
...on the road (except for the odd killer  
...paying gig in the casino). "The money  
...in Alberta is probably pretty close to  
...double what we get out here," he  
...says. They've even managed to break  
...into the elusive American market,  
...where they were the only Canadian  
...act at last year's Viva Las Vegas, North  
...America's largest rockabilly rumble.

Rockabilly is about as far away  
...from the mainstream as you can get  
...nowadays, but its well-worn sound  
...gives it more versatility than most  
...other forms of underground music.  
..."It doesn't scare anybody," says  
...Allen. "It's cool because we can play  
...just about anywhere. We've played  
...jazz festivals. We played this hippie  
...festival in Big River, Saskatchewan  
...years ago—it was just total hippies,  
...but it worked, y'know? We play  
...blues bars all the time. It just seems  
...to fit everywhere."

But like the blues, it's easy to fall  
...into a rut playing music based on the  
...same 50-year-old chord progressions.  
...And so, the Rowdymen will shake  
...things up by adding a country flavour  
...(think Hank Williams, not Garth  
...Brooks) and powerful vocal har-  
...monies. "We'll play three full-ahead  
...rockabilly songs and then we'll go  
...into some really hurtin' kind of coun-  
...try and then back into the rockabilly,"  
...says Allen. "It makes things different.  
...Plus, we have three lead vocalists in  
...the band, which is different from  
...most rockabilly." ☐



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**Tippy Agogo**

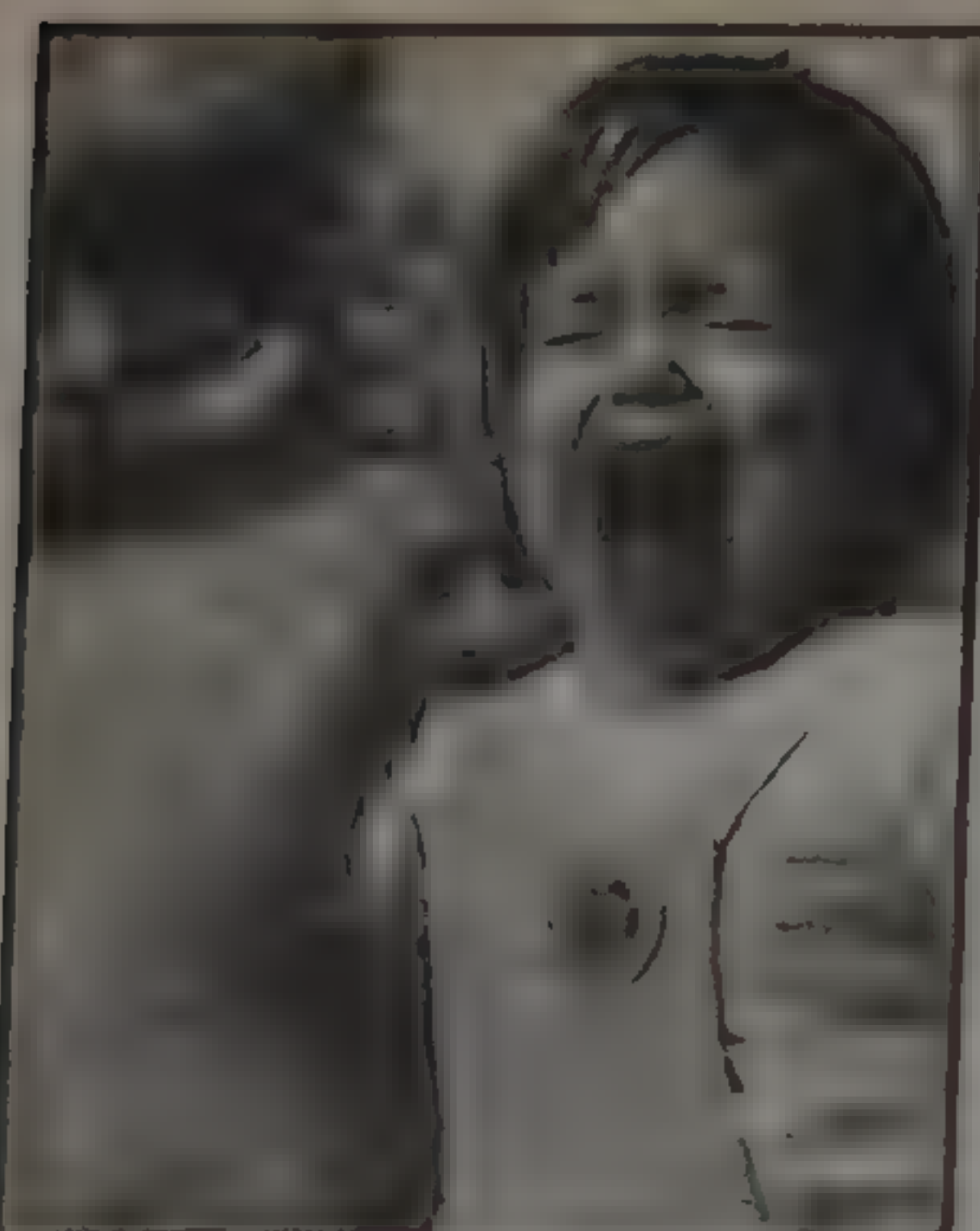
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## **BPM**

BY DAVID STONE

### **The Rev is finished—now what?**

It's done. Last Saturday, the Rev Cabaret and Lush Nightclub belted out the last note of a long life in Edmonton's nightlife with a packed house in attendance. While bands rocked it out in the cavernous Rev, which was adorned for the occasion with hundreds of gig posters reflecting the club's immeasurable contribution to the Canadian music industry, DJs like Tryptomene, Tripswitch, Phatcat, Degree and Remo spun the beats deep inside the building in Velvet.

Things seem pretty bleak now for the underground in the coming months, especially after a rough 2002. Attracting major DJs is a more expensive gamble than ever, while the few underground clubs around are struggling to hang on. There are still parties, but fewer of them are being produced independent of corporate funding—Vinyl Fantasy 3 coming up on February 8 at Red's and the Lisa

Lashes gig at the Joint on February 20 are the only two major dates on the calendar right now. Even the big corporate shows are less frequent.

Does this spell an end to dance culture? Now magazine dance music writer Benjamin Boles says things are tough in Toronto too, but the scene is already showing signs of adapting. On the issue of high-priced DJs, Boles thinks their inaccessibility can only rejuvenate the careers of local jocks. "Big-name out-of-town producers no longer attract the numbers to justify the huge DJ fees they demand," Boles writes, "so the emphasis will shift toward local DJs."

The downtown is forcing the scene to look for new ideas, he adds, meaning new promoters and musical styles will begin working their way onto the landscape. "New blood is what the scene needs more than anything else," he writes. "The hardcore audience tends to dwindle after a few years, when many retire, and the all-ages scene is almost non-existent. Too many promoters have tried to portray their events as 'for the old-school heads' without realizing that many of these people now have kids and careers and aren't going to be partying every weekend—especially not several nights in one weekend."

Here in Edmonton, that means DJs opening up their playlists to a wider palette of sounds while clubs dabble with new nights. Pure is delving into something new with their new Thursday night with DJ Richard Delmar entitled Retroelectro. Club manager Samson Chui is cagey about linking the night directly with the trendy electroclash movement that major centres like Lon-

don and New York have already proclaimed D.O.A. "We want to showcase electro," he stresses. "It's not a style played out much in Edmonton—yet."

Even the genres are transforming, shaking off the clichés and drawing on new sources. The trance renaissance led by Armin Van Buuren, Marco V and Tiësto is pulling from techno and electro, while house is hooking up once again with hip hop—witness tracks like Dirty Funkers' "Future" and Liquid People's remix of Missy Elliot's "Work It." Drum 'n' bass, meanwhile, is shedding its aggressive tendencies and welcoming back vocals, warm percussion and jazzy nods. In some ways, the music and the people who make it are running back to the roots and putting the pieces together again.

Drop into Y Afterhours, Majestik Pure on a weekend and you'll hear reaping the rewards of this quiet revolution, hoping that audiences eventually come back looking for alternative. You can download all music you want or sit in your living room all night, but it will never replace the feeling of standing in a club, hearing the coolest track ever a booming system with a crowd of people you don't know. It's like walking into a brand new world. The opportunity is out there—and there's no better time than the present. ☺

*Listen to BPM with David Stone on CJSR-FM 88.5, Wednesday nights from 1 a.m. to 3 a.m., starting January 22.*

## **CLUB WEEKLY**

**THE ARMOURY**—10310-85 Ave, 702-1800 • MON: Go-Girl Night: upstairs: Junior Brown, sexy house • THU: Lo Ball Night • FRI: Heaven and Hell, top 40 dance and retro • SAT: top 40 dance and R&B

**BACKROOM VODKA BAR**—10324 Whyte Ave • MON: Local Motive, house, techno and progressive with DJ Waterboy and guests • THU: I Can't Believe It's Not Friday, house with DJ Waterboy and regular guests • FRI: top 40 and R&B with Sunni Sidhu • SAT: Flava, hip-hop • SUN: Moonlight Cinema

**BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE**—10425 Whyte Ave, 439-1082 • TUE: Digital Underdog, hip hop with Sonny Grimezz, C-Sekshun, and Megaforce • SUN: What The Hell, downtempo beats with DJ Tryptomene

**BRONZE ON 5TH** • 10345-105 Street • WED: Ladies Night • FRI: Friday Night Fever, top 40, hip hop and R&B • SUN: Industry night

**BUDDY'S**—11725 Jasper Ave, 488-6636 • SAT: Animal, house with DJs Juicy and Derkin

**CALIENTE NIGHTCLUB**—10815 Jasper Avenue, 425-0850 • FRI: Funktion Friday, with DJ Al-V and Wayne B • SUN: Ladies Night, with Invoiceable, MC J-Money and guests

**CLIMAXX AFTERHOURS**—10148-105 St. • (780) 425 2582 • THU: guest DJs •

**FRI: Mr. Anderson, Shortee • SAT: Wil Danger, Tomek, LP, Protégé**

**CRISTAL LOUNGE**—10336 Jasper Ave, info 426-7521 • SAT: Urban Saturdays, with DJ Al-V, Wayne B and guests—JAN 18: DLP Sound Crew (Calgary)

**ELEPHANT AND CASTLE ON WHYTE**—10314 82 Ave, ph. 439-4545 • TUE: Method, breaks, hip-house with DJ Headspin

**HALO**—10538-Jasper Ave, 423-HALO • WED: house with Dirty Darren Pockett • FRI: Pulse, progressive house with Darcy Ryan, Mike Shoof and guests • SAT: For Those Who Know, with Junior Brown, Remo and guests

**MAJESTIK**—10123-112 St. • MON: Skool, house and tech house with Charlie Mayhem, Anthony Donohue and guests • TUE: DV8 Records DJ Karaoke • THU: House with residents Tripswitch, Sweetz and guests • FRI: Urban Fridays, hip hop with Shortround and Echo • SAT: Ladies Night, house with Anthony Donohue, Derkin, Juicy and guests • SUN: AM—Breakfast at Tiffany's, with Tiff-Slip and guests; PM—D'oh!, beats and cartoons with DJ David Stone and guests

**NEW CITY**—10081-Jasper Ave, 413-4571 • SUN: Lounge—Atmosphere, chilled beats; Main—Chocolate Sundays, house with Remo and guests • WED: Honey, house with Remo and Junior Brown

**PURE**—10551-82 Avenue, 995-PURE • WED: Breakout!, hip hop and breakbeat with Rage and J-Funk • THU: RetroElectro, electro with Richard Delamar • FRI-SAT: mixed house with DJ Dragon

**THE ROOST**—10345-104 St. • TUES: Upstairs: Roots, R&B and hip-hop with Break Fluid and Alvaro • FRI: Upstairs: house with Alvaro, Headspin, Diabolik, Topaz, Yvo and guests

**SAVOY**—10401 Whyte Ave, 438-0373 • FRI: Seaside, twee muzik w/Rich & Kyle • SAT: Beats, with Ariel & Roel • SUN: French Pop, with Deja DJ

**SUBLIME (late night/after hours)**—10147-104 St., Bsm. 905-8024 • FRI: Astrotrip, Darcy Ryan, S2 • SAT: house with Manny Mulatto and Locks Garant

**Y AFTERHOURS (latenight/after hours)**—10028-102 Street • FRI: F&@K It Fridays, with Tripswitch, Sweetz, Remo, Bounce, Old Bitch, Jameel, LP, Degree and MC Flowpro, Colin Rutt • SAT: Mayhem Saturdays, with Charlie Mayhem, Crunchie, Anthony Donohue, David Stone, Derkin, Juicy, Donovan, Jaw-Dee, Dave Thierman, Mike Shoaf—JAN 18: Ho's House of Rave: Charlie Mayhem's Birthday Party, with the Mayhem crew

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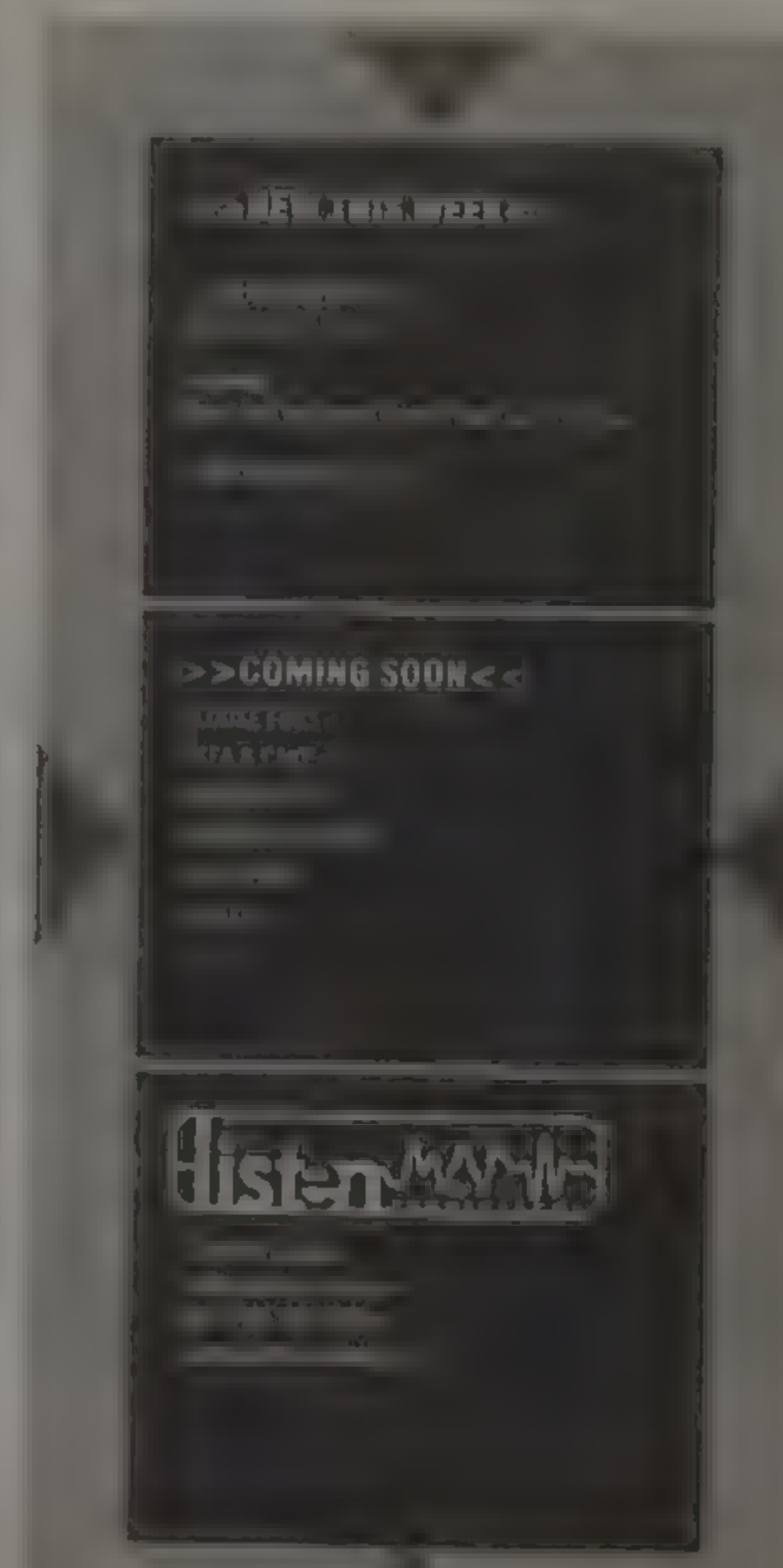
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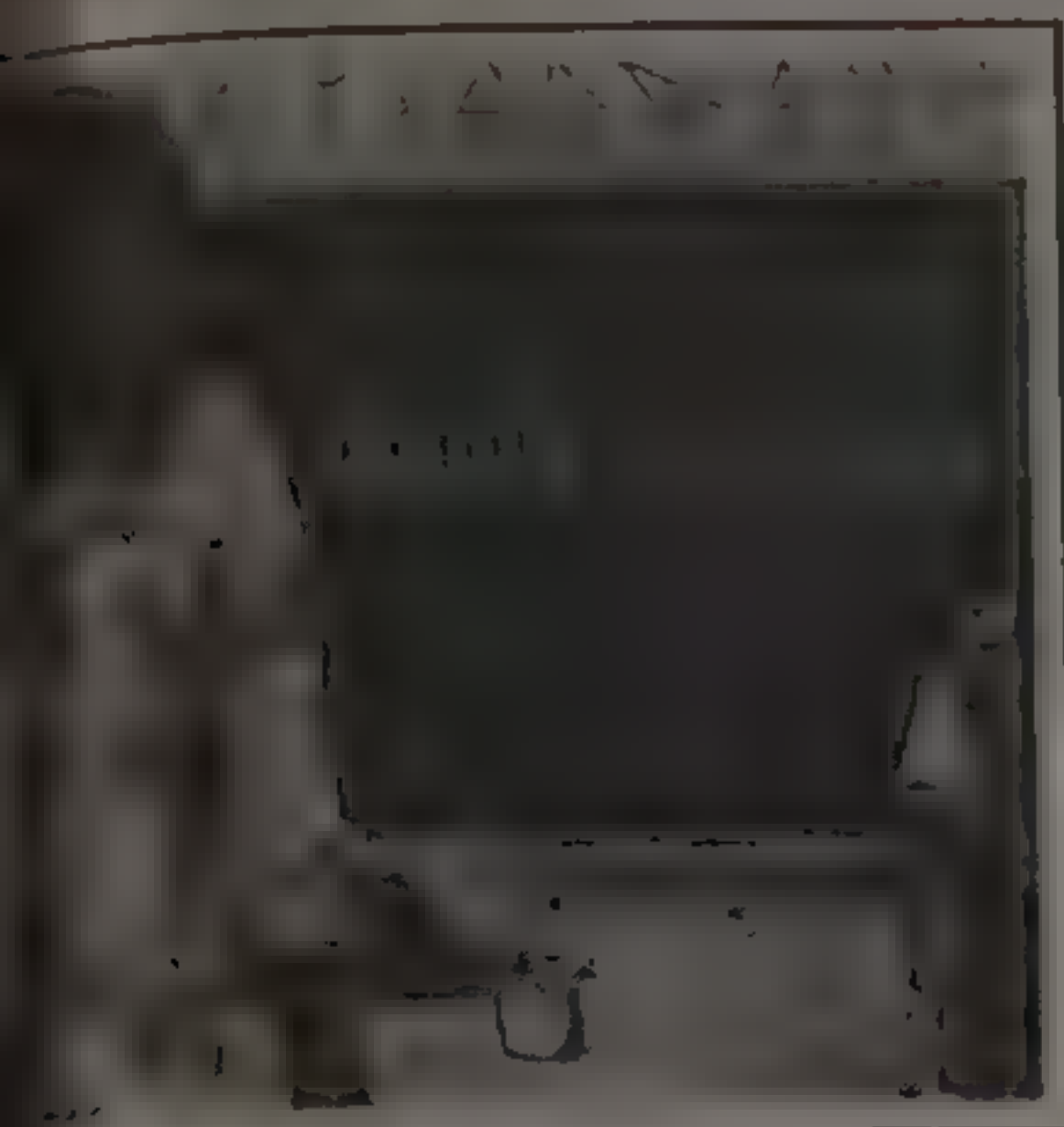
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# NEW SOUNDS



## DONNIE THE COLORED SECTION (GIANT STEP)

The Colored Section is the work of Donnie, an Atlanta singer/songwriter whose sinuous, intelligent neo-soul sings just might make his name cool again after decades of having been associated with lame-o pop-music sur-  
times like Osmond and Wahlberg. Donnie is the latest in a long line of contemporary hip-hop performers like Angie Stone, India.Arie and Alicia Keys who've modelled their music after the soulful, socially conscious sound of '70s soul. I've got a real soft spot for that kind of stuff, especially the Philly soul of groups like the Spinners and Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes, and so I've always felt kind of bad that so many of these modern-day neo-soul acts mostly leave me underwhelmed. (They feel at once too earnest and yet too laid-back, conveying none of the joyous urgency that made the records of even second-tier '70s groups like the Manhattans or the Chairmen of the Board or the Main Ingredient so fantastic.)

But Donnie is a real prodigy. *The Colored Section* simmers more than it boils, but it's a very strong collection of songs that seamlessly weds soulful beats to an enlightened sense of social politics. "Your hand/My hand," Donnie sings on "Our New National Anthem," one of the disc's strongest tracks, "We can make it to the promised land/I know we can show what it is to be truly American." Despite its title, there's an inclusive spirit to *The Colored Section* that's tremendously appealing. Throughout the disc, Donnie consistently resists the urge to condemn his fellow human beings and calls for compassion and understanding instead—on "People Person," he even finds a way to make the line "Let he that is without sin cast the stone" sound like the funkiest philosophy imaginable. Perhaps the strongest and most unusual cut, though, is "Big Black Buck," a satirical reggae that's like a Randy Newman song reimagined by Sly Stone. One of the most impressive debuts of the year.

★★★★ —PAUL MATWYCHUK

## VARIOUS ARTISTS BIG SHINY '90s (WEA)

Leave it to MuchMusic to start the retro-'90s bandwagon up and send it down the road. With the decade barely cold in the grave, the nation's music station has jumbled together two discs of one-hit

wonders and career-making tracks that they feel defined the era. While many of the choices are obvious—Blind Melon's "No Rain," Sublime's "What I Got," Marcy Playground's "Sex and Candy"—there are more than a few surprising, nay, ambitious inclusions. For instance, Radiohead could have been given a berth for "Just" or "Creep," but what we get instead is the sublime "Fake Plastic Trees," while Veruca Salt's anthemic "Seether" is passed over in favour of "Volcano Girls," which steals a riff from the former and probably benefited from having a flashier video. Even R.E.M.'s "What's the Frequency Kenneth?" sounds less jarring over time, but hearing Faith No More's "Epic" again makes you not only miss the band, but also realize that every nu-metal band since owes them some kind of royalties. As coy and contrived as this collection might seem, it succeeds in reminding us that the '90s were a pretty good decade for rock music, when most of the tunes on the radio actually sounded like they came from an honest place. ★★★★★

—DAVE JOHNSTON

## THE BEST OF 1990-2000 DVD (ISLAND/UNIVERSAL)

You can't evaluate the music on something like this—you either like U2's brand of arena rock or you don't. Admittedly, this is actually my favourite period in their career, simply because they had the balls to walk away from a sure thing like duplicating *The Joshua Tree* and went nuts. As pretentious and embarrassing as some of their later output might have been (er, *Pop?*), few mainstream acts have been able to comment so effectively on the times and still achieve commercial success (e.g., the media bombardment of Zoo TV).

That said, this DVD is a perfect time capsule of an important period for one of the biggest bands on the planet. All of their hits from the last 10 years are here in stunning high-fidelity surround-sound, along with alternate clips and documentaries. Among the more fascinating are "A Story of One," which explains why the band chose to make three different versions of the *Achtung Baby* ballad, and "Missing Sarajevo," a glimpse behind the scenes of the group's historic 1998 concert in the war-torn Balkan city.

Yet the best part about this DVD are the audio commentaries provided by the video directors, like Anton Corbijn (who recounts how much he hates the performance footage he was forced to include on his version of "One") to Stéphane Sednaoui (who talks about drummer Larry Mullen Jr.'s reluctance to play along in the goofy "Discotheque" video). With nearly three hours of material, it's plenty to knock out a diehard U2 fan with, but watch something like Jake Scott's stunning clip for "Staring at the Sun" and you realize that this band actually tried to produce some art with all of that commerce.

★★★★ —DAVE JOHNSTON

## BUCK 65 SQUARE (WARNER)

Booming out of Halifax, Buck 65 is probably one of the most unlikely hyped-up MCs to emerge in hip hop. Given the thumbs-up in publications like *Urb* and *Exclaim*, he's in the same column as dudes like MC Paul Barman, in that he sounds like a white boy taking the piss out of rap conventions, like an indie-rock smarty-pants at a party who claims that he was into Public Enemy before Flavor Flav became a crackhead or something.

Luckily, Buck is smarter than that, taking his basement beats and using them to make sense of urban malaise and loneliness. His untitled creations are more like abstract collages of rhythm and language than party rocking anthems. Even when he runs through the events of his day and what he should make for dinner—which he literally does at one point—Buck remains compelling thanks to his deadpan delivery and gritty production. Just don't expect this stuff to boom from a thug stereo while it rolls down the avenue. Watch for Buck 65 when he drops into the Power Plant at the U of A on Saturday, January 25. ★★★★★ —DAVE JOHNSTON

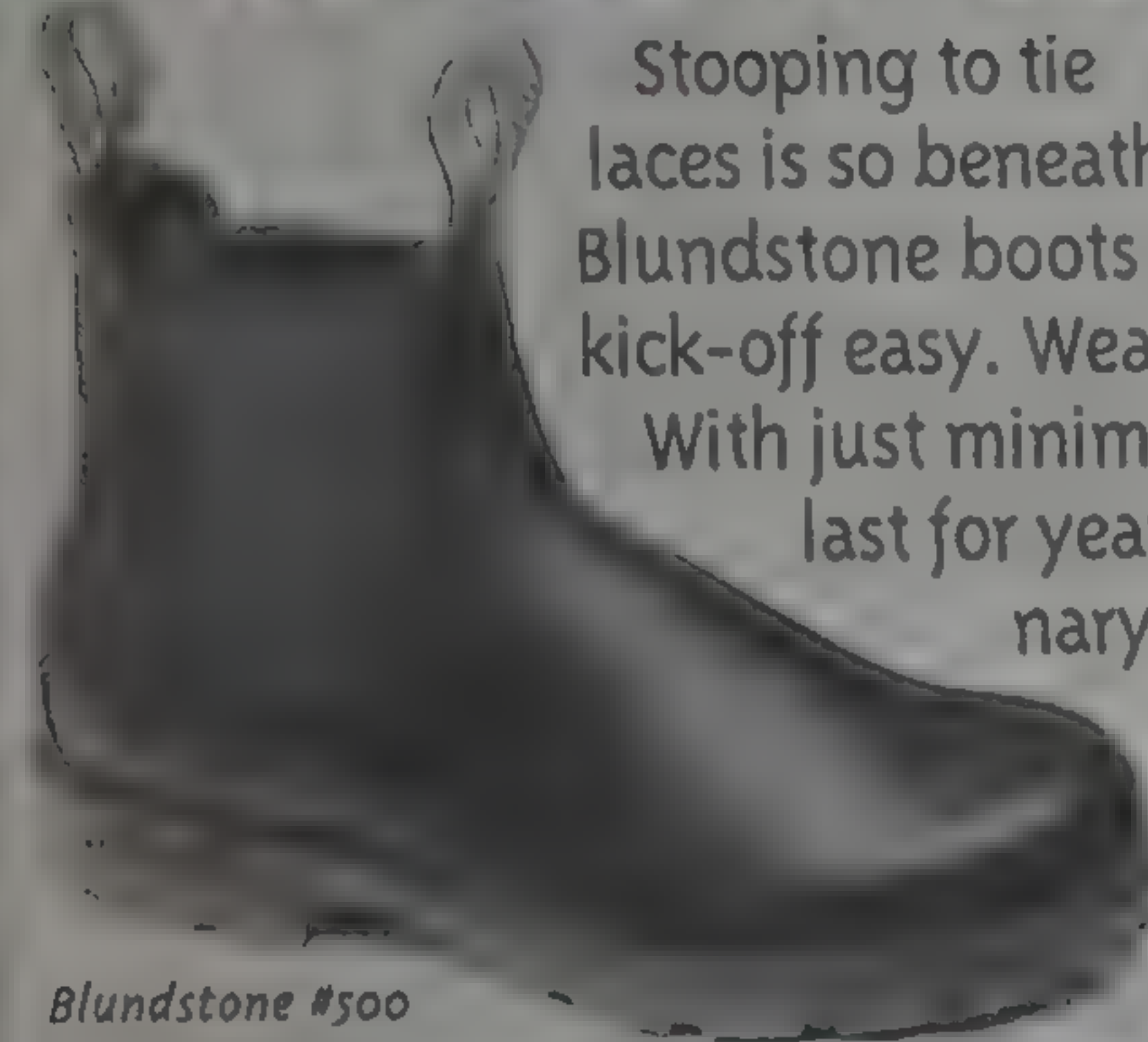


## FC/KAHUNA

## FC/KAHUNA MACHINE SAYS YES (CITY ROCKERS/NETTWERK)

Listen to the bumping "Glitterball" and you might be forgiven for thinking that FC Kahuna is another electro act jumping out of the U.K., but that wouldn't be giving the band or its music much credit. True, electro has always figured prominently in the work of Dan and Jon Kahuna, but they've been at the game for the better part of the last decade, rocking out British college students alongside contemporaries like the Chemical Brothers and Justin Robertson, a.k.a. Lionrock. On *Machine Says Yes*, the Kahunas weave their squawking synths into lush arrangements that alternate between shimmer and strut. The opening chillout track "Hayling" contrasts nicely with the prog-rock deconstruction of "Fear of Guitars," while "North Pole Transmission" draws on a post-club folk music vibe. While the album lacks the cohesive epic sweep of the Chems, *Machine Says Yes* remains an smart, rewarding listen that will definitely have more life than the latest electroclash compilation you just bought. ★★★★★ —DAVE JOHNSTON

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## CLASSICAL NOTES

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BY ALLISON KYDD

### Cole virus

After a recent performance of Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 4* with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Naida Cole confided that she disliked a certain publicity photo which she said made her look like a "sex kitten." "I didn't like it when I first saw it," she says, "but I thought maybe it wouldn't be used. Of course, it gets used all the time." Perhaps this explains Cole's reserved manner last weekend, though her piano performance was exquisite. She also responded warmly to young students after her Sunday performance.

The Beethoven concerto challenges a common practice. Most concertos are blatant showpieces for soloists, but this one begins not with flourishes, but with a series of gentle chords—in fact, the orchestra's role is more flamboyant than the soloist's. In his pre-concert talk, artistic director and principal horn David Hoyt explained how in this work's dialogue between the orchestra and soloist, the piano is the calming voice.

On the other hand, some wonderful piano cadenzas, especially in the last movement, proved Cole is more than a lovely face with a tender touch. She is a technically brilliant player with a clear sense of what she wants to do with a work. "The presence of the audience gives energy to a performance," Cole says, "[but] it is the music that owns me."

Thanks to the generosity of the ESO, 30 young piano students from inner-city schools were able to hear and meet Cole. Perhaps some of them will ultimately pursue a career in music. If they do, they will discover organizations set up to support young musicians—such as the Anne Burrows Foundation for Young Musicians, which recently celebrated its 23rd year. Another is the Johann Strauss Foundation. On January 3, seven vocalists and one organist vied for the opportunity to study in Austria. Winners will be announced on January 19 and celebrated at the annual Johann Strauss Ball in February.

On Sunday, January 12, the 22nd Annual Northern Alberta Concerto competition for strings, brass and woodwinds brought 12 candidates together to compete for scholarships and opportunities to perform with the Edmonton Youth Orchestra. The competition is sponsored by the EYO and the Alberta Registered Music Teachers Association.

Many Edmontonians have responded to the allure of European study. Terri Hron performs, tours and records with Amsterdam's Royal Wind Music, a recorder ensemble directed

by Paul Leenhouts. She, Lao O'Brien and Kamala Bain also formed trio Verboden Vrucht. They led a recorder workshop last weekend and gave a concert at the University of Alberta's Convocation Hall. Performing with them—after participating in the premiere performance of the Holy Trinity Ensemble earlier the same day—was Edmonton tenor John Brough.

Leonard Ratzlaff, the director of the new choir, says the name draws upon the image of music spiralling upwards. (There was some curiosity about the rationale for naming a choir "The Screw.") The turnout was excellent for the Sunday afternoon concert part of the Holy Trinity Anglican Church Concert Series, and the program was varied, with moments of great warmth. In the audience was Andrea Hamilton, who sings with the Richard Eaton Singers, another of Ratzlaff's choirs. She particularly enjoyed the five songs by Johannes Brahms. "[Ratzlaff] has a particular affinity for German romantic music," she said.

In many of the selections, it was interesting to note the similarities between church music and secular music and how more attention was lavished upon displays of virtuosity than the actual texts. This worries neither singers nor listeners. As another Richard Eaton chorister, Ria Busin says, "As choral singers, we don't make much distinction between sacred and secular. It's all music."

For the evening performance with the recorder trio, Brough sang countertenor. Though the performance had a certain novelty value, it was apparent in the first half that Brough would have appreciated the harmonic support of a continuo. The recorderists are constantly concerned with tuning themselves and don't give much support. Much effort obviously went into selecting authentic music and providing beautiful Renaissance instruments but none into approximating Renaissance costume. The trio also missed the opportunity to formally introduce themselves and their instruments.

However, the performance was enthusiastically received by those assembled. Arrayed on a velvet cloth in front of the players, the instruments made a fascinating display and many fans took the opportunity to take a closer look. While early music alone may have only limited appeal, the recorder is currently benefitting from a movement towards writing music for less mainstream instruments. Famous composers have been commissioned to write recorder music and Hron herself, who is currently studying composition and contemporary music performance, is exploring the possibilities.

Besides ESO specials this weekend, there is a Metamorphosis concert at the Winspear on Thursday, January 16. Guests are violinist Alicia Hui and soprano Svetlana Sech Sech, who teaches at the Conservatory of Music, also helps anticipate Valentine's Day in the Spectrum Series concert *Romantic Accents* at Muttart Hall on January 19. The faculty concert also features pianist Yona Kim and harpist Nora Bumanis. As if that wasn't enough, the Edmonton Chamber Music Society hosts the Grammy-nominated St. Laurence String Quartet on January 18 at Convocation Hall. ☐



# film

## Virginia creeper

*The Hours* reduces Michael Cunningham's novel to overdone soap opera

BY JOSEF BRAUN

Michael Cunningham's Pulitzer Prize-winning 1999 novel *The Hours* revolves around a cunning literary invention. It uses Virginia Woolf's novel *Mrs. Dalloway* as a link between three separate female characters from three different periods within the 20th century, one being Woolf herself in the process of conceiving the novel in 1923, one being a young housewife named Laura Brown in suburban Los Angeles in 1949 and the other being an editor and respected socialite named Clarissa Vaughn living in New York City in some time just shy of the present. Between them they share a multitude of connections, some immediately evident (Laura is transfixed by her reading of *Mrs. Dalloway*, Vaughn is nicknamed "Mrs. Dalloway" by her poet friend on account of her given name and talent with parties), and some that only become clearer as the story progresses. (Like Woolf's novel, Cunningham uses a stream-of-consciousness technique to study one day in the life of each woman.)

One of Cunningham's finest achievements is his ability to use a third-person narrative to probe each woman's interior and show that what (for the most part) seems to be the most ordinary day in each of their lives is in fact a day of great transformation. This, of course, is where the differences between Cunningham's novel and *Billy Elliot* director Stephen Daldry's film adaptation of *The Hours* begin. While Cunningham is able to drift into each woman's psyche and give voice to her invisible struggles, playwright/screenwriter David Hare rather gutsily eschews the easy path of using voice-over and tries to depict these struggles in action.

The problem with this noble venture is that Hare winds up losing almost all of the novel's pivotal sense of apparent normalcy obscuring inner tumult by turning several scenes into high drama; words and feelings never uttered in the novel are now not only spoken but often screamed until these fragile subtleties are spelled out to the point of redundancy. I am always a defender of movies being judged as movies and books as books, yet if a



Stephen Dillane, staring at Nicole Kidman's nose in *The Hours*

film adaptation of a book can aspire to anything, it's to make the experience of a story more temporally concise while using visual language to give it new depth and colour. But Daldry and Hare (with the assistance of an apocalyptically portentous, recycled score by Philip Glass) have actually managed to achieve the opposite effect: *The Hours* now feels much meatier, weightier and, most troublingly, overwrought.

### [REVIEW] drama

#### Joyless Streep

Where these stories could allow us to sense something, or to find something within ourselves that could help us relate to its characters on an intuitive level, Hare and Daldry have chosen instead to just come right out and have them tell us what they're going through. Clarissa is played by Meryl Streep, whose sense of nuance is impeccable; she elegantly implies so much with just a half-hearted smile or a seemingly involuntary squint. But her character here is turned neurotic, bursting into tears in her kitchen and crying out banalities about life's disappointments. (Likewise, Streep's climactic scene with Ed Harris as Clarissa's AIDS-afflicted best friend is robbed of nearly all of its terrifying ambiguity with grotesque foreshadowing and theatrical dialogue.) Laura is played by Julianne Moore, another fine actress with a talent for sparkling

detail who here is made into a bit of a basket case, running from a whacked-out screaming child. Sadly, it becomes easy to dismiss her and her choices because she seems so clearly way out on the edge instead of seeming creepily similar to the rest of us.

Woolf, played by Nicole Kidman (with a prosthetic schnozz), suffers somewhat less from the cruder elements of the film's interpretation. She's surrounded by that artificial mad-genius ambience that movies love to imbue famous dead people with, yet she grounds her Woolf with some real sass, the way she'll give someone a playful stare with her head tilted toward them. (Kidman has always won me over more in the roles where she gets to display her uptight, nervy reserve—she seemed utterly at home in *The Others*—while I have a hard time getting past her iciness when she's meant to be sensual and overtly seductive).

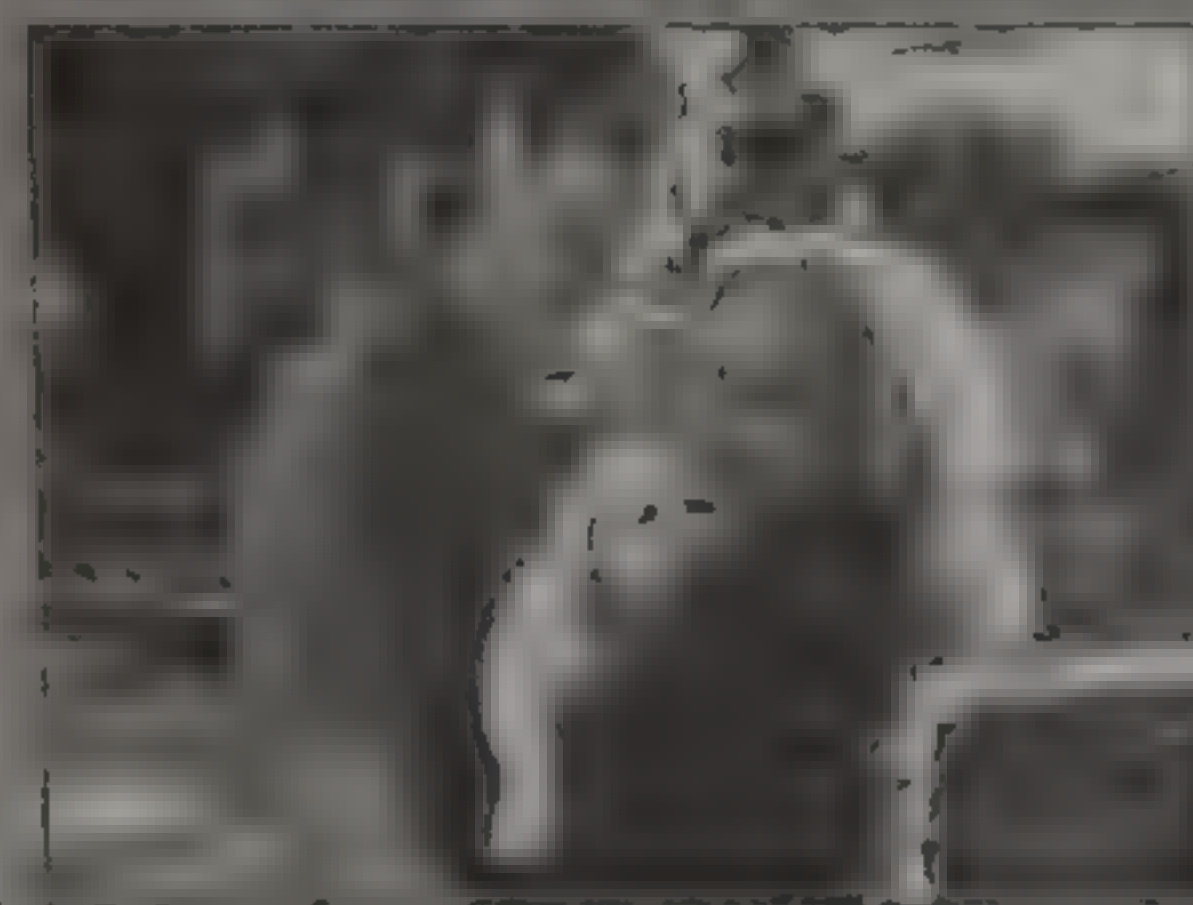
The best moments of these actresses' performances (of which there are many, shinning through all the numbing opera), along with the sheer novelty and curiosity of Cunningham's concept, make me want to recommend *The Hours* despite its failings. But if you really want to understand what this story is really all about, you're far better served by the source material. **B**

The Hours

Directed by Stephen Daldry • Written by David Hare • Starring Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore and Nicole Kidman • Opens Fri, Jan 17

## FAMETRACKER

### ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING 101



1. *Just Married* stayed in a succession of 18 million European hotels!
2. *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* fought 14.95 million orcs!
3. *Catch Me If You Can* passed \$14.8 million worth of forged cheques!

4. *Two Weeks Notice* ruined 6.7 million weddings!
5. *About Schmidt* travelled 6.25 million miles in a deluxe motor home!
6. *Chicago* was sentenced to 5.6 million years in prison for murder!
- 7 (tie). *Maid in Manhattan* stole 5 million towels!
- 7 (tie). *Gangs of New York* violated the defenceless corpses of 5 million rabbits!
9. *Antwone Fisher* took 3.8 million days leave from military service to *Antwone Fisher*!
10. *Adaptation* made \$2.9 million selling extremely rare orchids!

### THE ASTERISK\*

Adam Sandler was originally offered the lead in *About a Boy*\*

Tom Brokaw is notorious at NBC News for leaving thumbtacks on his colleagues' chairs\*

In the wake of ABC's *Celebrity Mole Hawaii*, VH1 has scrapped plans for the Cindy Crawford-hosted *Celebrity Moles*\*

Casey Affleck has a tattoo on his back that reads "Boston Bra-man"

Thanks to a rare dental abnormality, Brent Spiner still has all his baby teeth—his adult teeth have never come in, and never will\*

During a recent appearance on *Charlie Rose*, Brittany Murphy denied that she appeared in *Clueless*. She later issued an apology\*

Tom Jones was forced to leave a recent screening of *The Ring* after he was overcome by fright\*

Oscar De La Hoya's solo oboe album was nominated for a Grammy\*

A woman in New Mexico has started a zine dedicated to author Dave Eggers, titled *Leggo My Eggers*\*

Jay Mohr and Jay-Z have teamed to head up a new record label called "Pop 'n' Jayz"

Providence star Melina Kanakaredes is set to star in romantic comedy based on her own screenplay, tentatively titled *Jilly the Greek*

Laurence Fishburne refuses to use stamps as a protest against the "oppressive" U.S. Postal Service. Instead, he mails letters with coins taped to the envelopes\*

\*THEY HAVE THE RING OF TRUTH TO THEM, BUT THAT'S IT!

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# The men behind Hitsville, USA

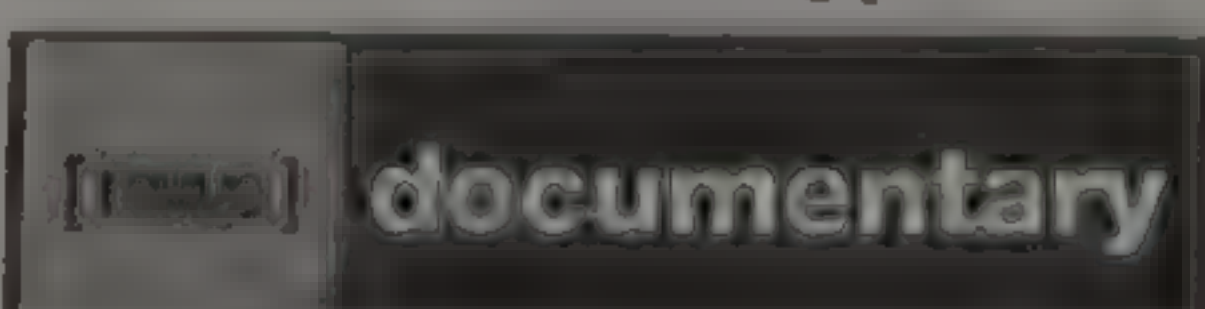
*Standing in the Shadows of Motown* spotlights pop's most unknown hitmakers

By PAUL MATWYCHUK

Near the end of the new documentary *Standing in the Shadows of Motown*, we hear a voluptuously masochistic story about the legendary bassist James Jamerson, whose distinctive, virtuosic one-finger playing style anchored literally dozens of Motown hits for everyone from Marvin Gaye to the Four Tops. It's 1983, and Jamerson—out of work, destitute and on the losing end of a lifelong battle with alcohol, his name unknown to all but a handful of R&B enthusiasts—scalps a ticket to the taping of the all-star *Motown 25* TV mega-special. There he sits, alone and unrecognized, in the balcony of the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, watching star after star perform the beloved songs he helped make famous. Only months later, he would be dead.

Not all the musicians who made up the Funk Brothers—the crack team of Detroit session musicians who provided the backbone for every single Motown recording from the late '50s to the early '70s, when the label abruptly relocated to Los Angeles—came to as unhappy an end as Jamerson, but they certainly toiled at a level of obscurity out of all proportion to

the influence and the popularity of their music. As the opening narration of *Standing in the Shadows of Motown* tells us, the Funk Brothers were literally the greatest hit machine in the history of pop music, and it's hard to imagine anybody ever topping their achievement. Get this: they played on more number-one records than Elvis Presley, the Rolling Stones, the Beach Boys and the Beatles... combined. They did occasionally get to release a few singles under their own names—Jamerson had a minor hit with "Fever in the Funkhouse," for instance, and I've included hard-driving pianist Earl



Van Dyke's instrumental "He Was Really Sayin' Somethin'" on more than one mixtape. But for the most part, Motown founder Berry Gordy was content to let them slave away anonymously but joyously for session after session in the hit factory of Studio A—or, as they called it, the "snakepit." It wasn't until Marvin Gaye insisted that the musicians' names be listed on the jacket of *What's Going On* in 1971 that the Funk Brothers received even nominal public recognition for their work.

## Paul drops the ball

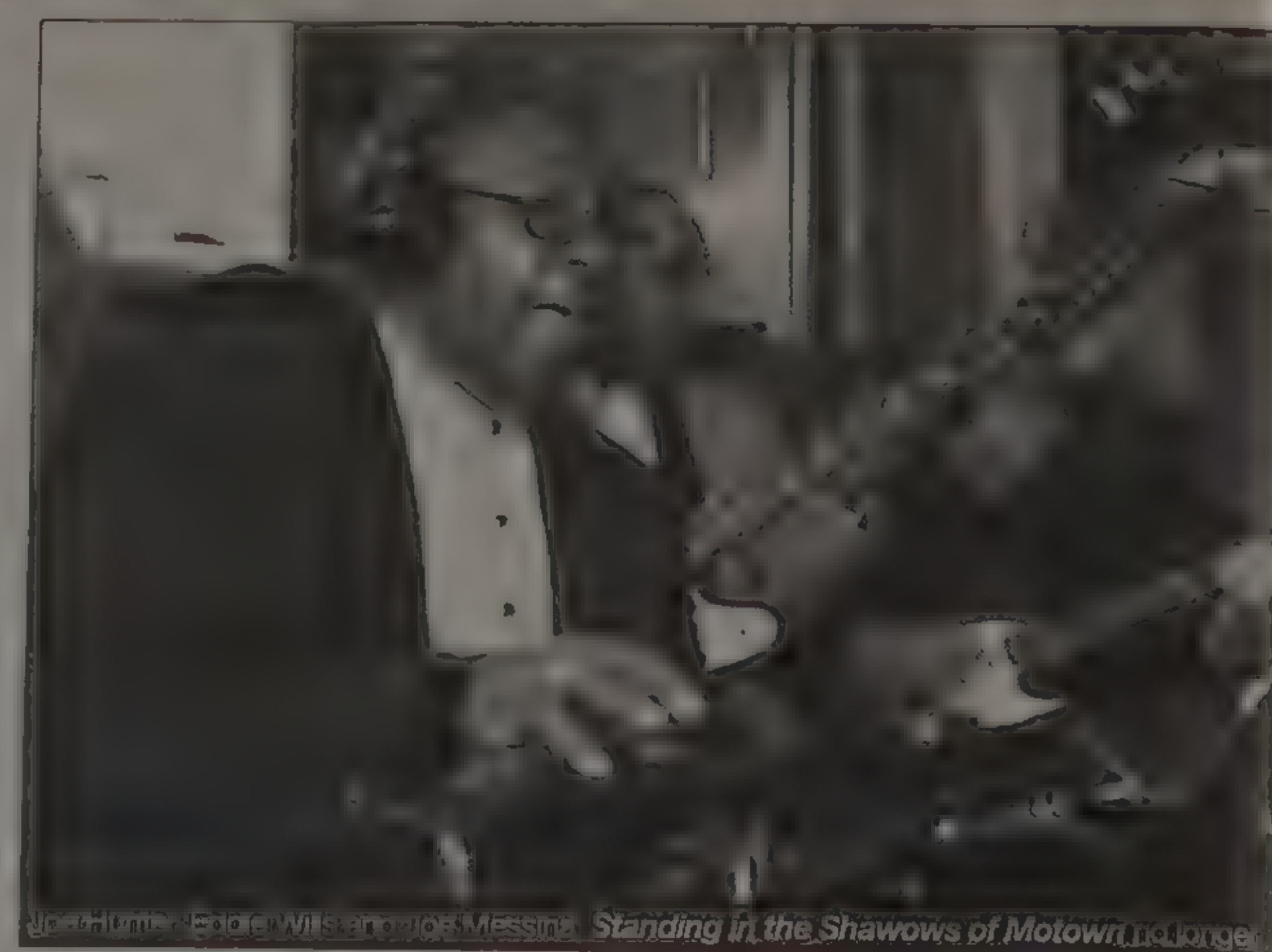
If *Standing in the Shadows of Motown* helps these men get proper credit for their artistry and their huge contribution to popular music, then it's a valuable film. Guys like Robert White (who played the indelible guitar intro

to "My Girl"), Johnny Griffith (who played piano on "I Heard It Through the Grapevine") and Jack Ashford (who raised tambourine-playing to a fine art on song after song) deserve to be better known. But I think they also deserve a better movie than *Standing in the Shadows of Motown*, which takes one of the great unknown stories in music history and translates it to the screen in the blandest way possible.

Just about every creative decision director Paul Justman made on this film seems misguided. The narration, co-written by playwright Ntozake Shange, is nothing but a medley of clichés. Whenever one of the Funk Brothers shares a colourful anecdote about the group's days on the road or stumbling out of the Motown studios at one o'clock in the morning and looking for a place to go drinking, Justman cuts to filmed "re-enactments" of those stories, complete with interchangeable young actors and half-heartedly designed period sets. He accompanies "What's Going On?" with a banal montage of newsreel footage of Martin Luther King and troops landing in Vietnam.

## What about Joan?

The film also contains several segments filmed at a Funk Brothers reunion concert in which the band recreates some of their best-known hits in front of a live audience—but Justman films these numbers as impersonally as an episode of VH1's *Storytellers*. He never takes you inside these songs, to see how they were constructed, to show you the inter-



play between drummers Uriel Jones and Richard "Pistol" Allan, or guitarists Joe Messina and Eddie Willis. At one point, one of the Funk Brothers remarks that their instrumental tracks were so strong that Deputy Dawg could have sung on top of them and still had a hit—and it's as if Justman set out to test that theory by bringing in second-stringers like Ben Harper and Gerald Levert as guest vocalists for the concert segments. (Joan Osborne provides the film with its only memorable musical performance with her rendition of Jimmy Ruffin's glorious "What Becomes of the Broken-Hearted?")

The affection that the Funk Brothers continue to have for each other is so obvious and the music they created together is so wonder-

ful that *Standing in the Shadows of Motown* can't help but be entertaining. And at the end of the film, when the titles of dozens of Motown hits drift across the screen, it's impossible not to be awestruck by the Funk Brothers' body of work. It's just too bad they couldn't find a director who could rise to their level. Back in 2001, Fernando Trueba captured all the vibrancy and passion of Latin jazz in *Calle 54*; wasn't there anybody out there who could do the same for "The Sound of Young America"? **D**

**Standing in the Shadows of Motown**  
Directed by Paul Justman • Narrated by Andre Braugher • Featuring The Funk Brothers, Joan Osborne, Ben Harper and Bootsie Collins • Opens Fri, Jan 17

# Doyle and trouble

Based-on-a-true-story *Evelyn* may be full of blarney, but it works anyway

By PAUL MATWYCHUK

*Evelyn* arrives in Edmonton only two weeks after *Rabbit-Proof Fence*, which was also based on a true story about children and parents battling desperately to be reunited in the face of an implacable government that seems determined to keep them separated. It's interesting to compare the two films; when I first saw *Rabbit-Proof Fence*, for instance, I was stunned to hear about these three little girls who walked thousands of miles across the Australian outback in the 1930s to rejoin their family, but I had some reservations about the somewhat Hollywood-style storytelling approach of director Phillip Noyce, which kept hyping the story instead of letting it unfold naturally.

But faith and begorrah, Bruce Beresford's work on *Evelyn* makes Noyce look like a piker. *Evelyn* is the story of Desmond Doyle (Pierce Brosnan), an unemployed Irish carpenter who in the mid-'50s became the centre of a legal firestorm when his wife absconded to Australia with her Eng-

lish lover. The authorities took a dim view of Doyle's ability to raise a family by himself, and within a month they had seized custody of his six children, split them up and sent them to live in a variety of "industrial schools" run by the Catholic Church until Doyle's circumstances improved. But even after the hard-drinking but decent-hearted Doyle cleaned himself up and landed a steady job, a loophole in the Children's Act requiring the consent of both parents to release a child from



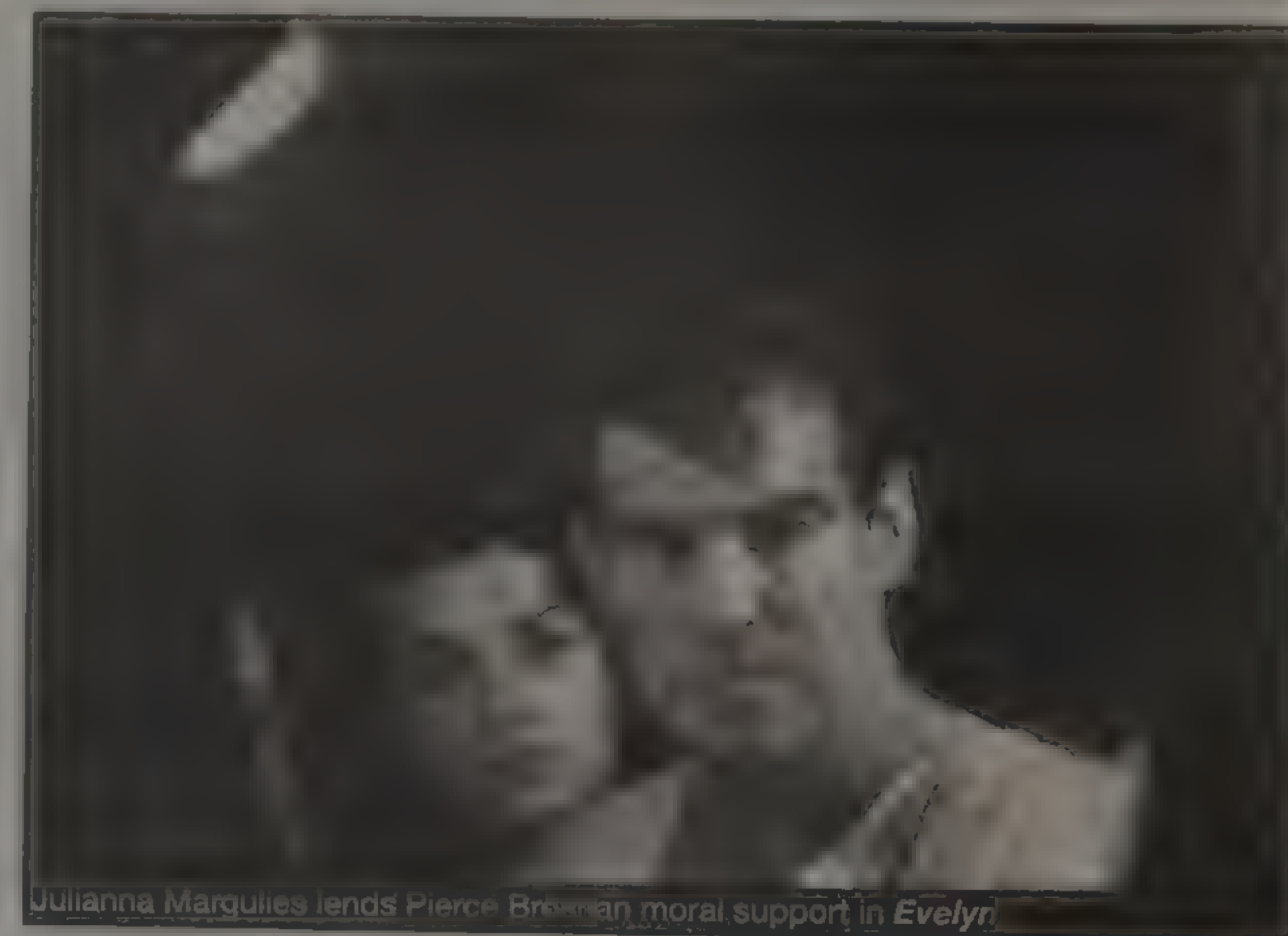
the Church's custody stood in the way, as not even Doyle's mother-in-law knew how to contact the ex-Mrs. Doyle in order to get her to sign the proper papers. The case ultimately wound up before the Irish Supreme Court, where Doyle's lawyers found themselves trying to convince the assembled justices to find the relevant provision of the Children's Act unconstitutional—an unprecedented argument that, miraculously, the court accepted by a slim 2-1 margin.

Of course, this is a fantastic David-and-Goliath story—and Beresford and screenwriter Paul Pender are well aware of the fact, to the point where they even mention it in the script. (When Doyle's lawyer—a dour fellow

with a pudding face and a pinstriped suit played winningly by Stephen Rea—tells him this case will be like fighting Goliath, Doyle replies, "Well, David beat Goliath in the book I read.") Pender takes a lot of easy shortcuts as he tells Doyle's story, reducing Doyle's six real-life children to a more manageable three and focussing almost exclusively on the cutest one, wee, button-nosed Evelyn (played by Sophie Vavasseur, who's quite a little heartbreaker). Pender also sets up a rogue's gallery of cardboard villains, including an evil nun and a rodent-faced judge, who behave as if their sole life's mission was to be mean to the Doyles. And he really ought to be ashamed of himself for putting in all that business about Sophie calling sunbeams "angel rays" after her grandfather tells her they're a sign that her guardian angel is watching over her.

## Pierce competition

I can't say as I was surprised by a single scene in *Evelyn*, and yet, despite all the manipulations of the script, the film is so sincere and good-hearted that it won me over anyway. I was reminded a little bit of my reaction to last year's *The Rookie*, another inspirational, based-on-a-true-story picture that skillfully got away with a lot of



Julianna Margulies lends Pierce Brosnan moral support in *Evelyn*.

cornball moments too. Like Dennis Quaid in that film, Pierce Brosnan contributes a wonderful, low-key central performance that's probably the biggest reason why the story works. Both actors have aged beautifully—Brosnan's looks especially used to be so blandly, interchangeably handsome that he was something of a joke, but over the last 15 years, his lean, refined features have actually acquired a lot of character—and they both know how to convey the essential decency of their characters while still keeping them on a human scale and not making superheroes out of them. They simply seem like ordinary guys who know the difference between right and wrong. Alan Bates supplies a

lot of fun comic relief as a boozy but wily legal consultant (his performance is nothing but Irish shtick, but of an extremely high order), and Julianna Margulies is quite appealing in a small role as Doyle's love interest.

*Evelyn* is too generic for me to recommend entirely, but it's a fascinating riddle: how can a movie be so hokey yet still evoke such an emotional response? It must have had angel rays watching over it. **D**

**Evelyn**  
Directed by Bruce Beresford • Written by Paul Pender • Starring Pierce Brosnan, Sophie Vavasseur, Aidan Quinn, Stephen Rea, Julianna Margulies and Alan Bates • Now playing





# Great Pumpkin

Subversive campus comedy mixes sorority sisters and Special Olympians

By JOSEF BRAUN

About halfway through watching *Pumpkin*, a new romantic comedy in which one of the protagonists is handicapped, I began to think to myself: this is easily one of the best comedies of 2002, so why has it received so little attention and taken so long to reach Edmonton? A limited engagement at Metro Cinema after being passed over by exhibitors who could have brought a more substantial audience? But the answer quickly became pathetically obvious. *Pumpkin* isn't one of those movies that congratulates us for watching a movie about a handicapped person. It doesn't make us feel better for having paid to sit passively and remind ourselves that special people are people too, and it's not going to win an Oscar for any of its actors for the supposed bravery it demands to portray a person of limited abilities.

Thing is, *Pumpkin* isn't some hard-hitting slice of gritty social realism either. It's a movie that resists categorization, that manages wit, intelligence, audacity and pointed social commentary while still entertaining us with a terrifically bizarre combination of soapy, ultra-stylized satire and blackly comic fairytale. Like *South Park* at its very best (i.e., when it's simultaneously shrewdly political and absolutely silly), *Pumpkin* flagrantly and efficiently exploits the conventions of a daredevil number of genres (thrillers and horror film conventions are used to particularly great effect) in its effort to take the piss out of not just everybody onscreen but the ones cracking up uncomfortably in the audience as well.

The characters in *Pumpkin* are trapped in one of two equally confining subcultures: a shallow, competitive and ultra-PC sorority in a southern Californian college (so PC they always refer to one of their sisters by her full name of Anne) and a set of affluent families with handi-

capped children competing in the Special Olympics. Both groups offer a sense of belonging to people for whom acceptance is either painfully difficult to acquire or who simply regard acceptance as essential for survival, yet both stifle individuality and free will with overbearing expectations and a preconceived notion of proper behaviour.

## The life of AOPi

These worlds collide when the girls of Alpha Omega Pi decide that the surest way to win favour in an inter-sorority competition is to take on the burden of an especially noble charity cause—namely, assisting handicapped track and field hopefuls in training for the Specials. AOPi poster girl Carolyn (Christina Ricci) is skeptical, fearing that perfect, pretty girls and mentally challenged boys with crooked smiles, stilted gaits and funny speech patterns just don't mix, that integration just emphasizes inequities. Carolyn's sisters berate her for this unfashionable fascism, yet ironically she becomes the charity's biggest champion after meeting Pumpkin (Hank Harris), the athlete in her charge who she becomes gradually haunted by, convinced that he's trying to tell her something.

And as *Pumpkin* continues to get stranger, we might begin to wonder if directors Anthony Abrams and Adam Larson Broder are trying to tell us something too, though ultimately they emerge more as mischievous storytellers with almost no more regard for verisimilitude than strident message-bearers. Nonetheless, *Pumpkin* is a remarkably subversive film for no other reason than it dares to sexualize the handicapped without merely mocking them—and this subversiveness is also the film's ticket to obscurity. The last U.S. release to try to bestow sexual vivacity upon a handicapped person was *Freddie Got Fingered*, and that movie remains one of the most misunderstood comedies ever made. ☺

**Pumpkin**

Directed by Anthony Abrams and Adam Larson Broder • Written by Adam Larson Broder • Starring Christina Ricci and Hank Harris • Zeidler Hall, The Citadel • Sun-Mon, Jan 19-20 (9pm) • Metro Cinema • 425-9212

# Koller my world

Films by Oscar-winning Swiss director grace Metro Cinema this weekend

By BRIAN GIBSON

This weekend, Metro Cinema presents four works by Swiss director Xavier Koller, whose 13 films span a 33-year career. I had the chance to screen two of the films in the series, one a feature about smuggling immigrants into Europe, the other a look at the rotting decadence of 1930s Berlin.

Early in the 1990 Foreign Film Oscar-winning *Journey of Hope*, Haydar and Meryem, a young Turkish couple with eight children, receive a postcard from a cousin who has made his way into Switzerland where, he writes, "butter would flow from the udders of your goats" in this "paradise."

A dairy-, chocolate- and clock-filled wonderland may be how many outsiders imagine Switzerland. I still drool like Homer Simpson at the memory of sampling chocolate pieces at Swiss confectioneries when I was there as a tourist in 1990, visiting legally. *Journey of Hope*, however, focusses on the arduous, chaotic and often unsuccessful trek of desperate foreigners over sea and land into Europe, hoping only for a better

life in a place that exists largely in their imagination.

*Journey of Hope* starts slowly and fails to establish a sense of place or the culture in southern Turkey; it is never entirely clear why Switzerland is so idealized by the Turkish couple. The film stock is often grainy and imbued with a bluish hue, reminiscent of the look of the British TV series *Traffic*; some of the Turkish immigrants are difficult to differentiate from one another, especially in the murky night scenes. Yet the last half of *Journey of Hope* has the engrossing, heartbreaking authentic-

## [review] foreign

ity of a fine documentary, as Haydar, Meryem and their precocious eight-year-old son Mehmet Ali try to slip over the mountains from Italy into Switzerland. What seemed most impressive to me about Koller's film is that this European director, in the tradition of recent Iranian film, coaxes such natural performances out of presumably amateur actors, building the story to a wrenching, resonant climax.

## Hot under the Koller

*Gripsholm* (2000), often visually lush, is based on the life and semi-autobiography of Jewish-German writer Kurt Tucholsky in 1932. The film begins when a sumptuous

Berlin cabaret show is disrupted by the violent removal of a Jewish flower girl from the room. The approach of fascism, in the form of a looming charge against Tucholsky for a newspaper editorial, darkens the last golden summer for him and girlfriend Lydia as they traipse off to a castle in Sweden. They are soon joined by friends Karlchen, a pilot, and Billie, a cabaret star. The political tension between the Jewish writer and the autocratic airman is matched only by the sexual frisson of the erotic threesome of Billie, Lydia and Kurt.

In the middle section of the film, the friends' constant cycle of worry about problems in Berlin then hedonistic frolics in the idyllic Swedish countryside grows tiresome. The final third, however, with a subplot concerning the friends' moral duty towards a victimized girl in a nearby school, links back to the opening scene and grounds the film in a poignant, bittersweet commentary on the insidious attitudes developing in early Nazi Germany.

Achtung: the small, faint, white lettering of the subtitles makes it difficult for a non-German speaker to catch much of the dialogue. ☺

## Xavier Koller Film Series

Directed by Xavier Koller • Featuring *The Frozen Heart*; *Tanner*, *The Rebellion*; *Journey of Hope*; *Gripsholm* • Fri-Mon, Jan 17-20 (7pm) • Zeidler Hall, The Citadel • Metro Cinema • 425-9212

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# DARKNESS FALLS

OPENS FRIDAY, JANUARY 24



# The secret policemen's brawl

*Narc* practically wallows in its grimy world of rogue-cop corruption

BY JOSEF BRAUN

**B**lood, Guts, Bullets and Octane writer/director Joe Carnahan's second feature, *Narc*, is a nasty little old-school cop drama that practically secretes a greasy film of cinematic nihilism. It's coated with blue filters, murky shadows and back-alley muck. One of its featured performances (that of Busta Rhymes) is delivered almost exclusively through a mask of blood and bruises. It begins with a breathless and blurry scene in which a cop chases a needle-wielding perp through a dreary series of housing projects (token cop movie fence-scaling included)

until he's forced to gun him down with a little girl scooped up into his arms, accidentally injuring a pregnant woman in the process. We see him trying to cinch up her wound with his dirty print shirt and we see a horrifying pool of blood balloon out from below her body as her screams rip through the air. We know, of course, that she's lost the baby. *Narc* is that kind of movie.

[REVIEW]

drama

The film stars long-lost Lost Boy Jason Patric as an undercover narcotics officer named Nick Tellis, sort of an older and more haggard version of Patric's character in *Rush*. He wears an imposing handlebar mustache with shaggy hair, very I'm-in-a-cop-movie, like *Serpico* meets *Lemmy* (a combination that actually transforms Patric into Werner Herzog circa 1981).

Patric has always been an interesting actor; he's got a weird knack for making his leading men seem rather impenetrably preoccupied and unlikely but, for me at least, frequently compelling anyway. (He seemed particularly at home in *Your Friends and Neighbors*, where he was practically the incarnation of evil.)

## Saint Patric

With *Narc*, however, the surroundings arduously reassure us that Patric is the genuine good guy this time. Tellis has an impossible job, a token suffering wife and a new child whom he loves dearly but just can't sacrifice the call of duty for—and a new partner who seems even more capable of flying off the handle than he is. Unhinged as Tellis seems, he's thrust into the role of moral authority in *Narc*. In the aftermath of the aforementioned disaster with the pregnant mother, Tellis is offered reinstatement if he accepts a dead-end murdered cop case that's been run into the ground by the victim's friend and colleague, a widower with a severe anger management problem named Henry Oak (a heavy-set Ray Liotta, whom we first see beating a cuffed suspect with a pair of pool balls in a sock). Oak and Tellis then team up and provide us with a tour of the hell that is Carnahan's inner-city Detroit, a cramped nest of glue-sniffing weasels, STD-afflicted, wife-beating junkies



Patric as Jason Patric (or, somewhat more accurately, as Jason Patric) in *Narc*

and doped-up accidental suicides.

Carnahan employs several stylistic techniques to spice up *Narc*—some inventive split-screening to compress time, some jittery jump-cuts and a dash of vaguely expressionist lighting—but he doesn't use them consistently or remarkably enough to make them into conventions or have them seem all that essential to the narrative. He's more confident with grubby naturalism, with nurturing strong performances from his leads (for all the unpleasantness he's immersed in, Liotta is very watchable as he delicately walks the line between ambi-

guity and suspense) and grounding himself in the same firm understanding of his genre that Spike Jonze displayed his video for the Beastie Boys' "Sabotage" (minus all the humour, of course). *Narc* may not be an exceptional cop film but it is a solid one, a tragedy of pervasive corruption in which honour is no more beneficial than deceit. Genre fans will not be disappointed. **D**

*Narc*

Written and directed by Joe Carnahan  
• Starring Jason Patric and Ray Liotta  
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ATOMIC SAKÉ  
COUNTDOWN



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STARRING  
CHRISTINA RICCI

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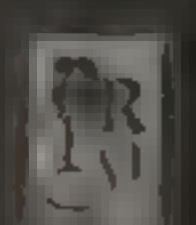
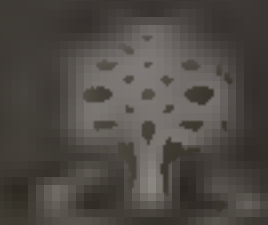


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## Turpin time

Pretentious short-film collection is more like *Un crap dans la tête*

BY BRIAN GIBSON

**C**anadian film trivia quiz: who's the writer/director/cinematographer of our country's nomination for the 2003 Academy Awards Best Foreign Film shortlist? If you know it's André Turpin, the man behind *Un crabe dans la tête*, then you may think you want to see *Three Short Films Shot by André Turpin*, a program of three short films that Turpin photographed for different directors that's screening at the Metro this weekend. But trust me—you don't. I felt so tortured after seeing these films that I wanted to call a human rights organization.

*Liquid Love* was both written and directed by Nadine Schwartz, twin crimes for which she should be shown no mercy. (She certainly doesn't show her audience any.) As smooth as Turpin's camerawork is (the blue-lit interior shots are especially reminiscent of his cinematography for Denis Villeneuve's *Maelström*), even *Midas* couldn't turn this offal into gold. Still, after I survived the narcolepsy-inducing dialogue and then fought off the impulse to walk out halfway through a 24-minute

film, I had to perversely admire any flick that packs in as many stale art-film conventions as this one and still tries to take itself seriously. The plot involves two artist lovers skinny-dipping in a woodland pool and then uttering a series of romantic clichés so banal—"I love you so much"; "I want to be with you forever"; "You don't have to run away from me if you feel overwhelmed"—that even a Hallmark card writer would retch. Toss in a marriage proposal, combine the romantic requisite woman-in-a-bathtub-surrounded-by-candles scene, sprinkle another laughable line

[REVIEW]

indie

("You're living on the edge and it's beautiful") and top it off with a quirky clunker of a resolution, and you have the most overheated, undercooked mess I have ever seen.

*Atomic Sake* may be a dud of a title but it is, thankfully, not a bomb of a film. Three women—Ariane, Véronique and Matilde—sit around, drink sake and decide to tell amorous secrets to one another that test their friendship. The acting is fine and Turpin's luminous black-and-white photography is fluid (though there are a few awkward zooms and some pointless transition scenes). The final revelation is obvious early on, so Louise Archambault's work would have had more punch if it had been

cut by about 10 minutes, but the film is left nicely open-ended.

10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, ZZZZZZ....

Nathan Morlando's *Countdown* is the most appropriately titled film in the program, if only because I was calculating the time left in this preposterous movie about an action star-wannabe bike courier almost as soon as it started. Even an opening martial arts fantasy sequence doesn't inject any life into this doddering tottering Stallone of a short film. Morlando's conceit is to show the wide-eyed child inside the main character by, well, showing a wide-eyed kid biking next to the courier down a Toronto street. I was rooting for the kid to take over the starring role—after all, the courier is so brainless that, after he suffers a serious cycling collision with the back of a truck, he's just as intelligent post-concussion as he was pre-concussion.

At least with a government-funded travesty like *Bubbles Galore*, you know you're getting screwed as a taxpayer. But a publicly-funded short film pretending it's high art? That's a more egregious sin than bland pornography, and it gives good Canadian cinema a bad name. **D**

Three Short Films  
Shot by André Turpin  
Zeidler Hall, The Citadel • Fri-Sat, Jan 17-18 (9pm) • Metro Cinema • 425-9212

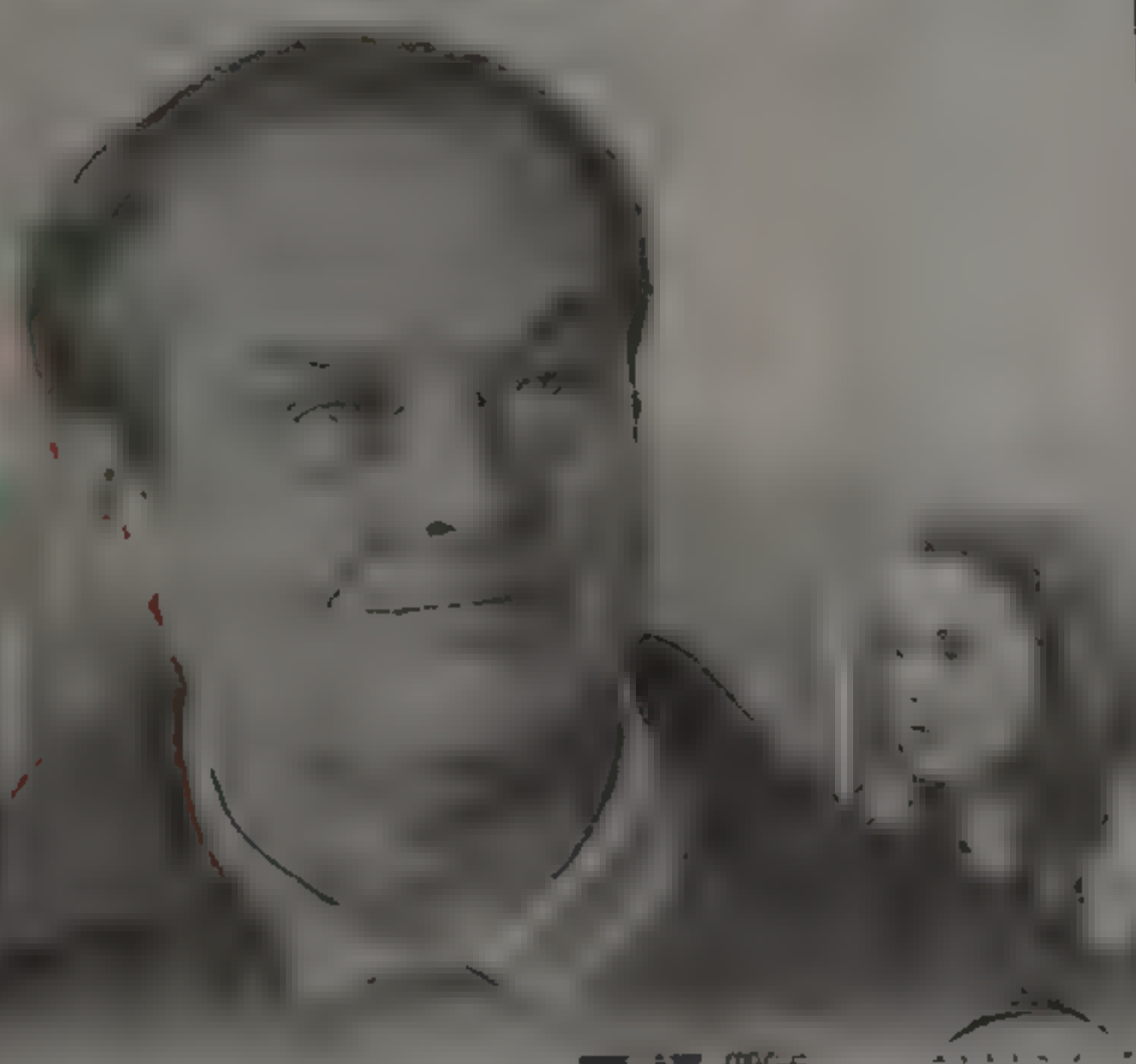


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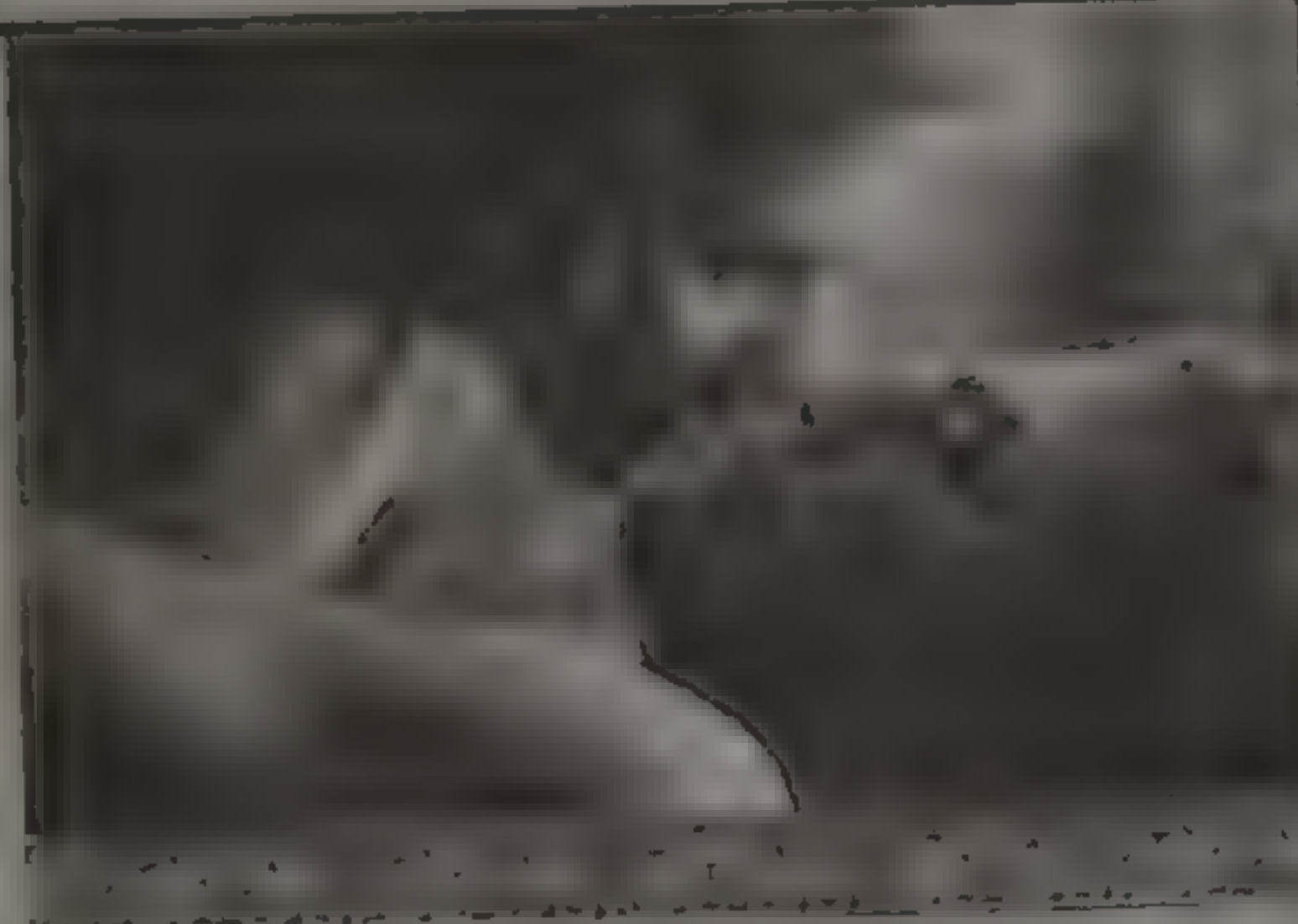
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# FILM WEEKLY

## NEW THIS WEEK

**Cameraless Filmmakers Unite!** (M) A selection of short experimental films created without the aid of movie cameras, either by painting directly on clear film or selectively exposing film stock. Featuring *1:1* (dir: Richard Reeves), *Song of the Firefly* (dir: Izabella Pruska-Oldenhof), *Light Magic* (dir: Izabella Pruska-Oldenhof) and *Jesus Trilogy and Coda* (dir: Stan Brakhage). Zeidler Hall, The Citadel; Thu, Jan 16 (7pm)

**Dil Ka Rishta** (CO) Aishwarya Rai, Arjun Rampal and Priyanshu Chatterjee star in director Naresh Malhotra's Bollywood romance about a beautiful woman who shows no interest in a man with a hopeless crush on her, only becoming attracted to him after a fateful turn of events hardens his heart against her. In Hindi with English subtitles.

**A Guy Thing** (CO, FP, L) Jason Lee, Julia Stiles and Selma Blair star in *Snow Day* director Chris Koch's romantic comedy about a soon-to-be wed man who becomes entwined in a series of compromising situations with his fiancée's attractive cousin just days before his wedding.

**The Hours** (CO) Nicole Kidman, Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore, Stephen Dillane, John C. Reilly and Ed Harris star in *Billy Elliot* director Stephen Daldry's adaptation of Michael Cunningham's novel, which interweaves the stories of three women from different eras, all of whom have a close connection with Virginia Woolf's novel *Mrs. Dalloway*. Screenplay by David Hare. Music by Philip Glass.

**Kangaroo Jack** (CO, FP) Jerry O'Connell, Anthony Anderson, Estella Warren and Christopher Walken star in *Coyote Ugly* director David McNally's slapstick comedy about two friends who bungle an assignment to deliver \$100,000 in Mob money to Australia when the loot is stolen by a wild kangaroo.

**National Security** (CO, FP, L) Martin Lawrence, Steve Zahn and Bill Duke star in *Happy Gilmore* director Dennis Dugan's comedy about a mismatched, black-and-white pair of security guards with a history of mutual animosity who must put aside their differences when they both become the unlikely targets of a group of killers.

**Pumpkin** (M) Christina Ricci, Hank Harris, Brenda Blethyn and Dominique Swain star in directors Adam Larson Broder and Tony Abrams's offbeat black comedy about a spoiled sorority sister who finds herself falling in love with the mentally disabled young athlete she's been assigned to assist as part of a charity effort. Zeidler Hall, The Citadel; Sun-Mon, Jan 19-20 (9pm)

**Standing in the Shadows of Motown** (GA) Director Paul Justman's music-filled documentary profiles the Funk Brothers, the unsung group of session musicians who played on virtually every Motown recording of the '60s and early '70s. Featuring musical performances by Joan Osborne, Bootsy Collins, Chaka Khan and Montell Jordan. Narrated by Andre Braugher.

**Three Short Films Shot by André Turpin** (M) A selection of short films photographed by the Quebec cinematographer of *Maelstrom* and writer/director of *Un crabe dans la tête*. Featuring *Liquid Love* (dir: Nadine Schwartz), *Atomic Saké* (dir:

Louise Archambault) and *Countdown* (dir: Nathan Morlando). In French with English subtitles. Zeidler Hall, The Citadel; Fri-Sat, Jan 17-18 (9pm)

**Xavier Koller Film Series** (M) A selection of films by the Oscar-winning Swiss filmmaker. Featuring *The Frozen Heart* (1979): Fri, Jan 17 (7pm); *Tanner, the Rebellion* (1985): Sat, Jan 18 (7pm); *Journey of Hope* (1990): Sun, Jan 19 (7pm); and *Gripsholm* (2000): Mon, Jan 20 (7pm). In German with English subtitles. Zeidler Hall, The Citadel

## FIRST-RUN MOVIES

**About Schmidt** (CO, FP) Jack Nicholson, Kathy Bates and Dermot Mulroney star in *Election* director Alexander Payne's satirical comedy about a newly retired actuary who embarks on a road trip to inject meaning into life following the death of his wife and his adoption of an African foster child. Based on the novel by Louis Begley.

**Adaptation** (CO) Nicolas Cage, Meryl Streep and Chris Cooper star in *Being John Malkovich* director Spike Jonze's wildly inventive comedy-drama about a neurotic Hollywood screenwriter facing writer's block and sexual frustration as he struggles to adapt Susan Orlean's book *The Orchid Thief* into a film, to the point where he decides to write himself into his own script. Screenplay by Charlie and Donald Kaufman.

**Analyze That** (CO, FP) Robert De Niro, Billy Crystal and Lisa Kudrow star in director/co-writer Harold Ramis's sequel to the 1999 comedy *Analyze This*, which reunites neurotic mobster Paul Vitti, newly released from prison, with his equally stressed-out psychiatrist Dr. Ben Sobel.

**Antwone Fisher** (CO) Derek Luke, Denzel Washington (who also directed) and Joy Bryant star in the inspirational true story of a young sailor, abandoned by his family as a child, who attempts to control his violent temper with the help of a sympathetic Navy psychiatrist. Screenplay by Antwone Fisher.

**Bowling for Columbine** (CO, P) *Roger and Me* writer/director Michael Moore examines Americans' love affair with firearms and probes the roots of the United States' astronomical gun-murder rate in this satirical documentary featuring interviews with Charlton Heston, Marilyn Manson and Matt Stone.

**Cannes 2002 World's Best Commercials Festival** (P) A selection of amusing and visually inventive international commercials, culled from the more than 4,000 entrants at the most recent Cannes Festival of Advertising.

**Catch Me if You Can** (CO, FP) Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hanks and Christopher Walken star in *Minority Report* director Steven Spielberg's comedy/drama, based on the memoir by Frank Abagnale, Jr., whose serial habit of impersonating doctors, lawyers and airplane pilots made him the youngest person ever to be put on the FBI's most-wanted list.

**Chicago** (CO) Renée Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Richard Gere star in director Rob Marshall's flashy film version of the classic Bob Fosse stage musical

about a pair of publicity-hungry murderesses manipulating the courts and the media in 1930s Chicago. Songs by John Kander and Fred Ebb.

**Die Another Day** (CO, FP) Pierce Brosnan, Halle Berry, Rick Yune and Judi Dench star in the latest adventure for suave, ladykilling British secret agent James Bond, who this time teams up with a sexy female American spy to battle a facially mutilated North Korean master criminal and a power-mad Brit. Directed by Lee Tamahori (*Along Came a Spider*).

**Evelyn** (CO) Pierce Brosnan, Julianna Margulies, Alan Bates, Aidan Quinn and Stephen Rea star in *Tender Mercies* director Bruce Beresford's drama, based on the true story of Desmond Doyle and his prolonged legal battle with the Irish government and the Catholic Church to regain custody of his four children after his wife deserts the family.

**Far From Heaven** (CO) Julianne Moore, Dennis Quaid and Dennis Haysbert star in *Safe* writer/director Todd Haynes's meticulously filmed '50s-style melodrama about a sheltered suburban Connecticut housewife who seeks comfort in her friendship with a black gardener after learning that her husband is a closeted homosexual.

**Gangs of New York** (CO) Leonardo DiCaprio, Daniel Day-Lewis, Cameron Diaz, Jim Broadbent and Henry Thomas star in *GoodFellas* director Martin Scorsese's violent historical epic, set during the early days of organized crime in mid-19th-century New York City, about the son of a slain Irish gang leader who vows revenge on his father's murderer. Inspired by the book by Herbert Asbury.

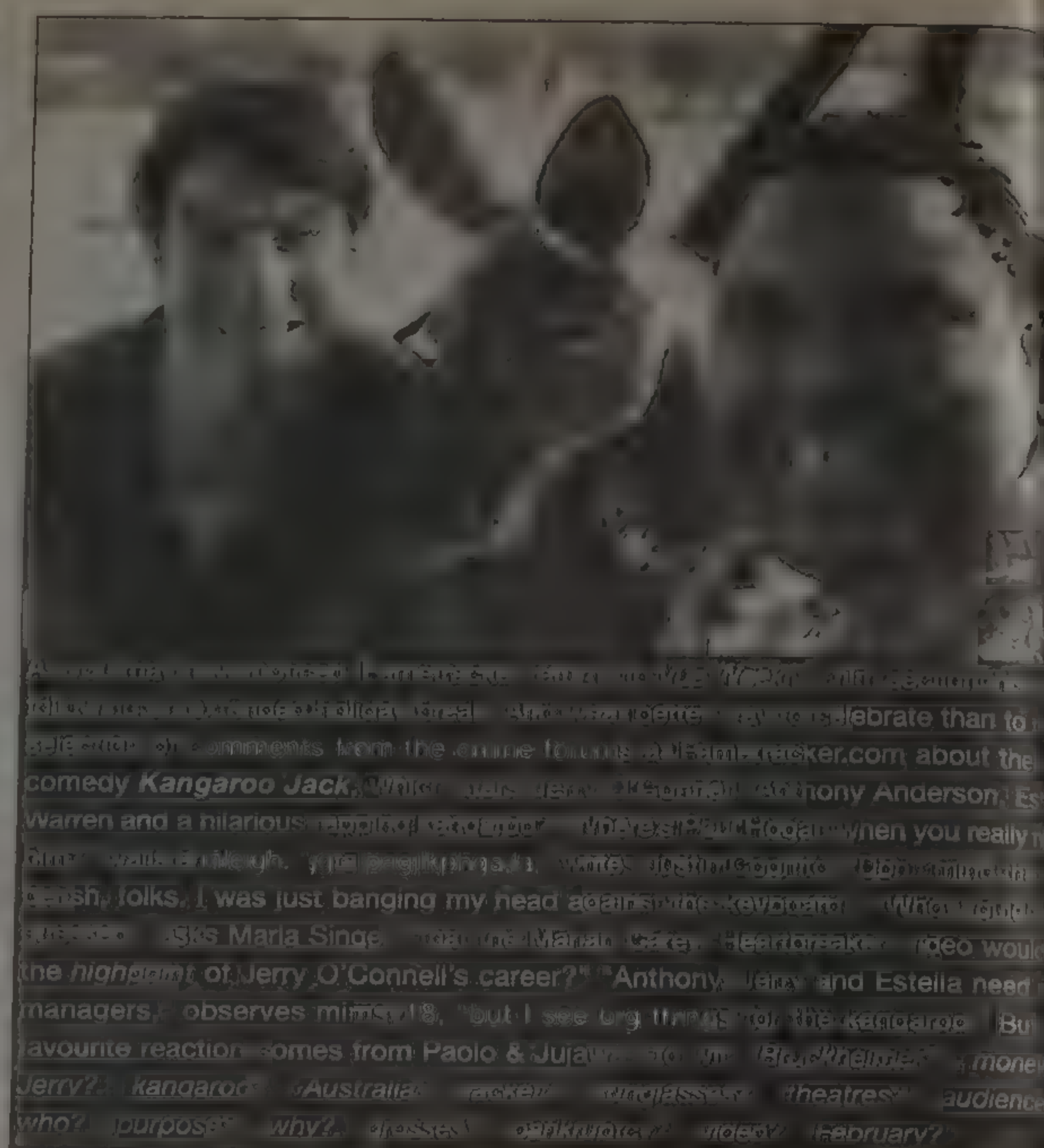
**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets** (CO, FP, L) Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Kenneth Branagh, Richard Harris and Robbie Coltrane star in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* director Chris Columbus's big-screen version of the second installment in J.K. Rowling's best-selling series of fantasy novels about good battling evil at a school for young wizards.

**The Hot Chick** (CO) Rob Schneider, Rachel McAdams and Anna Faris star in director Tom Brady's comedy about a beautiful but mean-spirited high-school girl who switches bodies with a homely 40-year-old male after they both don a pair of magical earrings.

**Just Married** (CO, FP, L) Ashton Kutcher and Brittany Murphy star in *Big Fat Liar* director Shawn Levy's romantic comedy about two newlyweds—a working-class traffic reporter and a young woman whose upper-crust parents disapprove of her new husband—struggling through a disastrous honeymoon in Venice.

**The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers** (CO, FP, L) Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen, Viggo Mortensen, Sean Astin, Christopher Lee and Andy Serkis star in the much-anticipated second installment of director Peter Jackson's epic film adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's trilogy of fantasy novels about a quest to destroy an all-powerful ring.

**Maid in Manhattan** (CO, FP) Jennifer Lopez, Ralph Fiennes and Natasha Richardson star in *The Joy Luck Club* director Wayne Wang's romantic comedy about a chambermaid at a New York luxury hotel who masquerades as a socialite in



order to win the heart of a handsome, wealthy politician. Screenplay by John Hughes.

**My Big Fat Greek Wedding** (CO) Nia Vardalos (who also wrote the script, based on her one-woman stage show), John Corbett and Andrea Martin star in director Joel Zwick's ethnic comedy about a Greek woman whose eccentric family causes her no end of headaches as she prepares to get married to a handsome WASP.

**Narc** (CO, FP) Ray Liotta, Jason Patric, Chi McBride and Busta Rhymes star in *Blood Guts Bullets and Octane* writer/director Joe Camahan's gritty cop melodrama about an undercover narcotics officer assigned to investigate the death of a young policeman, and who gets teamed up with the dead man's vengeful ex-partner.

**Pinocchio** (FP) Roberto Benigni (who also co-wrote and directed), Nicoletta Braschi and the voices of Glenn Close, Breckin Meyer and Queen Latifah are featured in this live-action adaptation of Carlo Collodi's classic fairytale about the talking wooden puppet who dreams of becoming a real boy.

**Rabbit-Proof Fence** (P) Everlyn Sampi, Tianna Sansbury, Kenneth Branagh and David Gulpill star in *The Quiet American* director Phillip Noyce's drama, based on the true story of three young Aboriginal girls who walked 1,500 miles across the Australian outback in the 1930s in order to be reunited with their family after having been abducted by the government and placed in a faraway training camp.

**Star Trek: Nemesis** (CO, FP) Patrick Stewart, Brent Spiner, Jonathan Frakes and Tom Hardy star in the latest adventure for the *Star Trek: The Next Generation* team, in which the Enterprise crew travels to the planet Romulus to

negotiate a peace treaty, only to discover a grave threat to Earth's safety upon their arrival.

**Treasure Planet** (L) The voices of Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Brian Murray, David Hyde Pierce, Martin Short and Emma Thompson are featured in *Aladdin* co-directors Ron Clements and John Musker's animated science-fiction globe on Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* about a young man battling pirates as he searches for a legendary buried treasure.

**Two Weeks Notice** (CO, FP) Sandra Bullock and Hugh Grant star in writer/director Marc Lawrence's romantic comedy about a self-absorbed attorney who only realizes how he depends upon his overworked, unappreciated assistant when she announces she's quitting and gives him 14 days to find a replacement.

**The Wild Thornberrys Movie** (CO, FP) The voices of Lacey Chabert, Brenda Blethyn, Rupert Everett, Marisa Tomei and Alfre Woodard are featured in this big-screen version of the popular animated TV show about a betrotting family of nature documentarians whose daughter has the amazing ability to talk to animals.

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Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers	14A	7:00	12:00, 3:00
A Guy Thing	PG	6:50, 9:10	1:00, 3:00
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets	PG	7:20, 9:30	1:00, 3:00
Just Married	PG	7:20, 9:30	1:00, 3:00
Treasure Planet	G	7:10, 9:20	1:00, 3:00
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14A  
1:15 Sat Sun 2:00

**RABBIT-PROOF FENCE**  
PG  
7:10 Sat Sun 1:00

**BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE**  
14A  
9:30 Sat Sun 3:00

**METRO CINEMA**  
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Citadel Theatre, 425-9212

**THE FROZEN HEART**  
PG  
DAS GEFRORNE HERZ)

**THREE SHORT FILMS SHOT  
BY ANDRÉ TURPIN**  
STC  
9:00

**TANNER, THE REBELLION  
DER SCHWARZE TANNER)**  
PG  
7:00

**JOURNEY OF HOPE**  
STC  
REISE DER HOFFNUNG)

**PUMPKIN**  
14A  
Coarse language, sexual content.  
Fri Mon 9:00

**GRIPSHOLM**  
PG  
Mature themes, Mon 7:00

**MUTES IN BONDAGE/THE  
ELEPHANT MAN**  
STC

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**THE LORD OF THE RINGS:  
THE TWO TOWERS**  
14A  
Violent scenes, frightening scenes. Daily 7:30

**TWO WEEKS NOTICE**  
PG  
Sat 7:00 9:00 Sun-Thu 8:00

**LEDUC CINEMAS**  
4762-50 St. 986-2728

**THE LORD OF THE RINGS:  
THE TWO TOWERS**  
14A  
Violent scenes, frightening scenes.  
Daily 7:00 Sat Sun 12:00 3:30

**A GUY THING**  
PG  
Coarse language, crude content.  
Daily 6:50 9:10 Sat Sun 1:00

**HARRY POTTER AND  
THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS**  
PG  
Frightening scenes. Sat Sun 3:20

**JUST MARRIED**  
PG  
Suggestive content, not suitable for younger  
children. Fri Mon-Thu 7:20 9:30 Sat Sun 3:10

**TREASURE PLANET**  
G  
Sat Sun 1:10

**NATIONAL SECURITY**  
14A  
Daily 7:10 9:20 Sat Sun 1:20 3:15

**WETASKIWIN CINEMAS**  
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**MAID IN MANHATTAN**  
PG  
7:00 9:15 Sat Sun 1:00 3:00

**GRANDIN THEATRE**  
Grandin Mall, Sir Winston Churchill Ave.  
St. Albert, 458-8822

**KANGAROO JACK**  
PG  
Suggestive language. Daily 11:30 3:00 6:00 8:00

**CATCH ME IF YOU CAN**  
PG  
Not suitable for younger children.  
Daily 11:45 2:30 5:45 8:45

**THE LORD OF THE RINGS:  
THE TWO TOWERS**  
14A

**HARRY POTTER AND  
THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS**  
PG  
Frightening scenes. Daily 11:40 2:50 6:15 9:20

**NATIONAL SECURITY**  
14A

**CINEMA GUIDE**

**CITY CENTRE**  
10200-102 Ave. 421-7020

**THE HOURS**  
PG  
Mature themes, DTS Digital

**NATIONAL SECURITY**  
14A  
DTS Digital. No passes.  
Daily 12:30 2:40 4:40 7:10 9:20

**ABOUT SCHMIDT**  
DTS Digital. Daily 12:50 3:40 7:00 9:40

**JUST MARRIED**  
Suggestive content, not recommended for  
younger children. DTS Digital. No passes.  
Daily 1:40 4:10 7:30 10:10

**ADAPTATION**  
14A  
Coarse language, suggestive scenes.  
DTS Digital. Daily 1:30 4:20 7:20 9:50

**CHICAGO**  
DTS Digital. Daily 1:10 4:00 6:30 9:10

**CATCH ME IF YOU CAN**  
PG  
Not suitable for younger children. DTS Digital  
Daily 12:15 3:30 6:40 10:00

**GANGS OF NEW YORK**  
14A  
Brutal violence throughout. DTS Digital.  
Daily 1:00 5:00 9:00

**THE LORD OF THE RINGS:  
THE TWO TOWERS**  
14A  
Violent scenes, frightening scenes.  
THX Daily 1:20 5:10 8:45

**WEST MALL 8**  
8882-170 St. 444-1829

**EVELYN**  
DTS Digital. Fri Mon-Thu 7:00 9:10  
Sat-Sun 1:40 4:40 7:00 9:10

**ABOUT SCHMIDT**  
STC  
DTS Digital. Fri Mon-Thu 7:10 9:45  
Sat-Sun 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45

**FAR FROM HEAVEN**  
PG  
Mature themes. DTS Digital.  
Fri Mon-Thu 6:30 9:00

**CHICAGO**  
STC  
DTS Digital. Sat-Sun 1:25 3:50 6:30 9:00

**GANGS OF NEW YORK**  
14A  
DTS Digital. Fri Mon-Thu 6:50 9:20  
Sat-Sun 1:20 4:00 6:50 9:20

**GRIPSHOLM**  
PG  
Mature themes, Mon 7:00

**MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING**  
STC  
DTS Digital. Fri Mon-Thu 6:40 8:50  
Sat-Sun 2:10 4:20 6:40 8:50

**ANALYZE THAT**  
DTS Digital. Daily 7:20 9:30

**THE HOT CHICK**  
14A  
DTS Digital. Fri Mon-Thu 7:30 9:40  
Sat-Sun 1:50 4:30 7:30 9:40

**THE WILD THORNBERRYS MOVIE**  
PG  
DTS Digital. Sat-Sun 1:00 3:00 5:00

**CLAREVIEW**  
4211-139 Ave. 472-7600

**A GUY THING**  
PG  
Coarse language, crude content. DTS Digital  
Daily 1:20 4:20 7:50 10:15

**NATIONAL SECURITY**  
14A  
DTS Digital. No passes.  
Daily 12:20 2:40 4:50 7:40 10:10

**KANGAROO JACK**  
PG  
Suggestive language.  
DTS Digital. Daily 12:40 2:50 5:00 7:20 9:40

**ABOUT SCHMIDT**  
14A  
DTS Digital. Daily 12:50 3:40 6:40 9:20

**NARC**  
PG  
Graphic violence throughout  
DTS Digital. Daily 1:10 3:50 6:50 9:50

**JUST MARRIED**  
PG  
Suggestive content, not recommended for  
younger children. DTS Digital. No passes.  
Daily 12:10 2:30 4:40 7:30 9:45

**CATCH ME IF YOU CAN**  
PG  
Not suitable for younger children. DTS Digital  
Daily 1:00 4:10 7:00 10:00

**THE LORD OF THE RINGS:  
THE TWO TOWERS**  
14A  
Violent scenes, frightening scenes.  
DTS Digital. On 2 screens  
Daily 12:00 1:00 4:00 5:00 8:00 9:00

**MAID IN MANHATTAN**  
PG  
Some coarse language.  
DTS Digital. Daily 7:10 9:30

**HARRY POTTER AND  
THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS**  
PG  
Frightening scenes.  
DTS Digital. Daily 12:15 3:45

**SOUTH EDMONTON COMMON**  
1525-99 St. 436-8585

**DIL KA RISHTA**  
STC  
DTS Digital. Daily 1:15 4:45 8:15

**NATIONAL SECURITY**  
14A  
DTS Digital. No passes.  
Daily 12:50 3:15 5:30 7:50 10:20

**THE HOURS**  
PG  
Mature themes. DTS Digital  
Daily 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:40

**A GUY THING**  
PG  
Coarse language, crude content. DTS Digital  
Daily 12:40 3:10 5:40 8:00 10:30

**JUST MARRIED**  
PG  
Suggestive content, not recommended for  
younger children. No passes.  
Daily 12:35 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:15

**ADAPTATION**  
14A  
Coarse language, suggestive scenes.  
DTS Digital. Daily 2:00 4:40 7:30 10:10

**ANTWONE FISHER**  
14A  
DTS Digital. Daily 1:40 4:20 7:10 9:50

**ABOUT SCHMIDT**  
14A  
THX Daily 1:00 3:50 6:45 9:30

**CATCH ME IF YOU CAN**  
PG  
Not suitable for younger children.  
DTS Digital. No passes.  
Daily 12:45 3:45 6:50 9:00 10:00

**GANGS OF NEW YORK**  
PG  
Brutal violence throughout  
DTS Digital. No passes.  
Daily 1:10 5:00 8:45

**TWO WEEKS NOTICE**  
14A  
DTS Digital. Daily 2:10 4:50 7:20 9:45

**THE LORD OF THE RINGS:  
THE TWO TOWERS**  
14A  
Violent scenes, frightening scenes. No passes.  
On 2 screens. THX Fri-Sat 12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30  
8:30 10:15 Sun-Thu 12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30

**MAID IN MANHATTAN**  
PG  
Some coarse language. DTS Digital  
Daily 1:45 4:15 6:40 9:10

**MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING**  
PG  
DTS Digital. Daily 1:50 4:00 7:15 9:20

**HARRY POTTER AND  
THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS**  
PG  
Frightening scenes. DTS Digital  
Fri-Tue Thu 1:30 5:10 Wed 1:30

**WEST MALL 8**  
8882-170 St. 444-1331

**THE RING**  
14A  
Frightening scenes.  
Fri-Sun 1:00 4:00 7:15 9:45 Mon-Thu 7:15 9:45

**EMPIRE**  
18A  
Fri-Sun 1:45 5:00 7:45 10:00  
Mon-Thu 7:45 10:00

**TREASURE PLANET**  
G  
Fri-Sun 2:15 4:45 7:30 9:30 Mon-Thu 7:30 9:30

**TUCK EVERLASTING**  
PG  
Fri-Sun 2:00 4:30 6:30 8:50 Mon-Thu 6:30 8:50

**SWEET HOME ALABAMA**  
PG  
Coarse language. Fri-Sun 1:15 4:15 7:00 9:15  
Mon-Thu 7:00 9:15

**WHITE OLEANDER**  
14A  
Mature themes. Daily 9:00

**THE SANTA CLAUSE 2**  
G  
Fri-Sun 1:30 3:45 6:45 Mon-Thu 6:45

**VILLAGE TREE**  
1 Gervais Rd. St. Albert, 459-1212

**A GUY THING**  
PG  
Coarse language, crude content. Fri 7:30 10:00  
Sat-Sun 1:30 4:45 7:30 10:00 Mon-Thu 7:30

**JUST MARRIED**  
PG  
Suggestive content, not recommended for  
younger children. No passes. Fri 7:30 10:00  
Sat-Sun 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:30 10:00  
Mon-Thu 7:30

**ABOUT SCHMIDT**  
14A  
Fri 7:00 9:45 Sat-Sun 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45  
Mon-Thu 7:00

**GANGS OF NEW YORK**  
18A  
Brutal violence throughout  
Fri 8:45 Sat-Sun 1:00 4:30 8:45  
Mon-Thu 6:30

**TWO WEEKS NOTICE**  
PG  
Fri 7:15 9:45 Sat-Sun 1:45 4:15 7:15 9:45  
Mon-Thu 7:15

**STAR TREK: NEMESIS**  
PG  
Violent scenes, not suitable for younger children  
Fri-Sun 6:30 9:15 Mon-Thu 6:30

**MAID IN MANHATTAN**  
PG  
Some coarse language. Fri 7:00 9:30  
Sat-Sun 1:30 4:30 7:00 9:30 Mon-Thu 7:00

**THE HOT CHICK**  
14A  
Fri 7:30 10:00 Sat-Sun 1:45 4:45 7:30 10:00  
Mon-Thu 7:30

**DIE ANOTHER DAY**  
14A  
Violent scenes. Fri 6:45 9:30  
Sat-Sun 12:30 3:30 6:45 9:30 Mon-Thu 6:45

**8 MILE**  
18A  
Fri 6:30 9:00 Sat-Sun 12:45 3:30 6:30 9:00  
Mon-Thu 6:30

**MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING**  
PG  
Fri 7:15 9:30 Sat-Sun 1:15 3:45 7:15 9:30  
Mon-Thu 7:15

**BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE**  
14A  
Fri 6:45 9:15  
Sat-Sun 1:15 4:00 6:45 9:15 Mon-Thu 6:45

**THE WILD THORNBERRYS MOVIE**  
G  
Sat-Sun 12:45 3:00

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Edmonton 780-416-0150

**A GUY THING**  
PG  
Coarse language, crude content. DTS Digital  
Fri 3:10 7:00 9:15 Sat-Sun 12:45 3:10 7:00 9:15  
Mon-Thu 7:00 9:15

**NATIONAL SECURITY**  
14A  
DTS Digital. Fri 3:30 7:05 9:30  
Sat-Sun 12:50 3:30 7:05 9:30  
Mon-Thu 7:05 9:30

**KANGAROO JACK**  
14A  
Suggestive language  
DTS Digital  
Fri 3:40 6:50 9:10  
Sat-Sun 12:55 3:40 6:50 9:10  
Mon-Thu 6:50 9:10

**ABOUT SCHMIDT**  
14A  
DTS Digital  
Fri 3:15 6:45 9:25  
Sat-Sun 12:25 3:15 6:45 9:25  
Mon-Thu 6:45 9:25

**JUST MARRIED**  
18A  
Suggestive content, not recommended  
for younger children  
DTS Digital  
Fri 3:25 6:35 9:00  
Sat-Sun 12:35 3:25 6:35 9:00  
Mon-Thu 6:35 9:00

**CATCH ME IF YOU CAN**  
PG  
Not suitable for younger children  
DTS Digital.  
Fri 3:15 6:30 9:30  
Sat-Sun 12:20  
3:20 6:30 9:30  
Mon-Thu 6:30 9:30

**THE WILD THORNBERRYS MOVIE**  
PG  
DTS Digital  
Fri 4:40  
Sat-Sun 12:40 2:40 4:40

**TWO WEEKS NOTICE**  
PG  
DTS Digital  
Daily 7:10 9:20

**THE LORD OF THE RINGS:  
THE TWO TOWERS**  
14A  
Violent scenes, frightening scenes.  
DTS Digital  
On 2 screens  
Fri 4:15 4:45 8:00 8:30  
Sat-Sun 12:15 1:00 4:15 4:45 8:00 8:30  
Mon-Thu 8:00 8:30

**MAID IN MANHATTAN**  
PG  
Some coarse language  
DTS Digital.  
Daily 6:40 9:05

**HARRY POTTER AND  
THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS**  
PG  
Frightening scenes  
DTS Digital  
Fri 3:45  
Sat-Sun 12:30 3:45

**FAMOUS PLAYERS**  
Gateway 8

**ANALYZE THAT**  
14A  
Coarse language throughout  
Fri Mon Tue Wed Thu 6:55 9:20  
Sat Sun 1:10 4:00 6:55 9:20

**DIE ANOTHER DAY**  
14A  
Violent scenes  
Fri Mon Tue Wed Thu 7:00 9:40  
Sat Sun 1:00 3:50 7:00 9:40

**KANGAROO JACK**  
PG  
Suggestive language  
Fri Mon Tue Wed Thu 7:20 9:50  
Sat Sun 12:40 2:45 4:50 7:20 9:50

**NARC**  
18A  
Graphic violence throughout  
Fri Mon Tue Wed Thu 7:30 10:00  
Sat Sun 1:30 4:10 7:30 10:00

**PINOCCHIO**  
PG  
Fri Mon Tue Wed Thu 6:50 9:15  
Sat Sun 12:45 3:20 6:50 9:15

**STAR TREK: NEMESIS**  
PG  
Violent scenes, not suitable for younger children  
Fri Mon Tue Wed Thu 7:05 7:25 9:35 9:55  
Sat Sun 12:50 1:20 3:30 4:20 7:05 7:25 9:35 9:55

**THE WILD THORNBERRYS**  
G  
Fri Mon Tue Wed Thu 6:45 9:00  
Sat Sun 12:30 2:30 4:30 6:45 9:00

**Paramount TRX**  
10233 Jasper Ave. 428-1307

**A GUY THING**  
PG  
Coarse language, crude content  
Fri Mon Tue Wed Thu 7:00 9:30  
Sat Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30

**SuperCity West Edmonton Mall**  
WEM, 8882-170 St. 444-2400

**A GUY THING**  
PG  
Coarse language, crude content  
Daily 12:40 3:30 7:40 10:15

**CATCH ME IF YOU CAN**  
PG  
Not suitable for younger children  
Daily 12:10 3:20 6:50 10:10

**DIE ANOTHER DAY**  
PG  
Violent scenes.  
Daily 12:20 3:45 7:00 10:30

**HARRY POTTER AND  
THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS**  
PG  
Frightening scenes.  
Daily 12:05 4:00

**JUST MARRIED**  
PG  
No passes.  
Suggestive content, not suitable for  
younger children  
Daily 12:40 3:30 7:15 10:40

**KANGAROO JACK**  
PG  
Suggestive language  
12:15 2:30 5:00 7:25 9:45

**MAID IN MANHATTAN**  
PG  
Some coarse language  
12:50 3:55 6:45 9:40

**NARC**  
18A  
Graphic violence throughout  
12:45 4:15 7:45 10:20

**NATIONAL SECURITY**  
14A  
1:00 3:50 7:20 9:50

**STAR TREK: NEMESIS**  
PG  
Violent scenes, not suitable for younger children  
7:35 10:25

**THE LORD OF THE RINGS:  
THE TWO TOWERS**  
14A  
Violence, frightening scenes  
12:30 4:20 8:15  
Fri Sat Mon Tue Wed Thu 12:00 12:30  
1:30 3:40 4:20 5:15 7:30 8:15 9:15  
Sun 12:00 12:30 1:30 4:20 5:15 7:30 8:15 9:15

**TWO WEEKS NOTICE**  
PG  
1:10 4:10 7:05 10:05

**WWE ROYAL RUMBLE**  
G  
Classification not available  
Live event Sun 5:00

**Westmount Centre**  
111 Ave. Groat Rd. 455-8726

**ABOUT SCHMIDT**  
14A  
Fri Mon Tue Wed Thu 7:15 10:00  
Sat Sun 12:30 3:15 7:15 10:00

**CATCH ME IF YOU CAN**  
PG  
Not suitable for younger children  
Fri Mon Tue Wed Thu 6:45 9:45  
Sat Sun 12:45 3:45 6:45 9:45

**HARRY POTTER AND  
THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS**  
PG  
Frightening scenes  
Sat Sun 12:15 3:30

**THE LORD OF THE RINGS:  
THE TWO TOWERS**  
14A  
Violence, frightening scenes  
Fri Mon Tue Wed Thu 8:00  
Sat Sun 12:00 4:00 8:00



**Cori Caulfield**  
*Portrait Solos*

2002  
2003



January 17&18  
8:00pm  
John L. Haar Theatre  
10045 156 St.

For tickets or info call 497 4416

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# arts



Cori Caulfield's discussion of *Portrait Solos* is more coy than candid

BY JOSEF BRAUN

**T**his weekend, the Brian Webb Dance Company hosts its first presentation of the work of Vancouver dancer-choreographer Cori Caulfield, which glides into town on a sea breeze of accolades but wrapped in an enigma. There seems to be very little I can actually tell you about Caulfield's new *Portrait Solos*, an evening of six varied pieces dating back to January of 1998, each performed by Caulfield herself, but what the wealth of critical writing on her previous work seems to promise is nothing less than a luminescent wonder, work that's uniformly precise, theatrical, passionate, intellectually engaging and, at times, subversively amusing to boot. And as a dancer alone, Caulfield has also impressed audiences while working with the likes of Marie Chouinard, William Forsyth and the Frankfurt Ballet.

Of course, Caulfield doesn't need another publicist, so instead of depending on the press clippings, I figured I would speak with her personally and see if I couldn't get a clearer idea of what to expect from *Portrait Solos*. I can tell you that Caulfield has a lovely, warm demeanour and is a consummate professional when it comes to being perfectly articulate while revealing almost nothing. Honestly, I'm not sure how much closer I got.

"I suppose the only single thematic link is me, really," Caulfield said in response to my general probing. "These six solos are a bit of a

variety pack. They all try to occupy a distinct time and place. Some of these places are more realistic than others.... Some are more like fantasy environments. But they're not connected overtly except for the fact that they're all women."

Hm. Caulfield did seem favourable to my deduction that *Portrait Solos* could be viewed as a sort of personal journal in dance, admitting that "They do give a good sampling of my work since 1998." And what any broad sampling of Caulfield's

## [preview] dance

work seems to imply is a dizzyingly eclectic mix of styles and disciplines. Not unlike the majority of Canada's most innovative or controversial contemporary choreographers, any single piece of Caulfield's might reveal a daring range of influences. "I don't think you could take any one of these six solos and say that they're purely representative of one particular technique or another," Caulfield says.

### This postmodern world

To make a generalization, pulling from a wide range of resources (as is true with so many artforms these days) has arguably become the norm in dance. Yet while some artists have been at times accused of merely dabbling (Holy Body Tattoo's deliberately loosey-goosey use of the tango in last season's *Circa* certainly managed to divide audiences, though I liked it), the diversity of Caulfield's work seems to be consistently complemented by a surprising level of expertise, making reference to her training and continuing active interest in, say, classical Chinese dance or improvised comedy. I asked her to comment on her sense

of diversity and if she ever worried whether or not an abundance of diversity can endanger one's distinctive individual expression.

"I think my work is postmodern in the real sense of the word," Caulfield answered, "in that it is an amalgamation of styles characteristic of various previous periods, and hopefully they're amalgamated in a way that feels new and refreshing. I think that I've exposed myself to a wide variety of things. I've travelled a lot. I've studied Eastern dance and Western dance and jazz and hip-hop, breakdancing and classical ballet and tap. I've exposed myself to everything I can get my hands on, basically. I'm a visual artist and am keenly involved in what's going on in visual art. I'm a theatre nut. I love opera and I'm constantly at the ballet. I'm exposed to so many different things—and who can avoid pop culture? We're all inundated in this sort of soup of influence. And I think each one of us can be a distinct filter of all those things. I find that my body wants to whittle away things that don't speak to me or feel genuine."

I tried in vain to press Caulfield for a description, just a teaser, or even just one of her pieces in *Portrait Solos*, but her reluctance, while a tad frustrating to a journalist unfamiliar with her work, is hard not to respect.

"I feel like if I could describe one of my pieces then I should just be a writer," Caulfield explained with an apologetic laugh. "I think if I were to try and describe my piece I'd just kill it. That's why I dance—because I can't express this stuff any other way."

**Portrait Solos**  
Choreographed and performed by  
Cori Caulfield • John L. Haar Theatre  
(10045-156 St) • Fri-Sat, Jan 17-18

• 497-4416



# A Backroom deal

Jon Yu organizes  
*Common Mess*  
exhibition to benefit  
local shelters

BY TERRY PARKER

It wasn't your usual white wine and linen trouser crowd. But then again, Jon Yu isn't that kind of guy—and a stuffy venue wasn't what he had in mind when he conceived up an art show two months ago to benefit the Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre and the Youth Emergency Shelter. So he asked a friend at the Backroom Vodka Bar on Whyte Avenue, got a lot of friends to spin beats for free and convinced eight artistic friends to donate photographs, sculpture, paintings and drawings for a benefit show called *Common Mess*. Contributors are mostly young and art, but the bulk of them, is a hobby. But it's also a gift they can give away.

Yu, 22, just graduated from pharmacology at the University of Alberta and wants to pursue a career in research. But before he did that, he wanted to hold an event to close a chapter on his youth and open another chapter on adulthood. On opening night, when we sat and shouted our conversation over the music and laughter, he blushed after saying that and blushed, a little embarrassed. Then he went on. "Like becoming a man," he said, smiling. "It basically started with me coming to the point in my life where I'm done school and I'm ready to move on to something else. It's like a denouement."

Tanya Tellier, program manager for the 66-bed women's shelter, was taken aback when Yu called her before Christmas to say he wanted to put on a benefit art show and was

surveying organizations. She invited him to take a tour of the facility—it's the century-old triangular Gibson Block building off Jasper at 9611-101A Avenue—and he determined it was a worthy recipient. Several hundred or even a thousand dollars for a facility with an annual budget of about \$2 million may not seem like much, but the needs of homeless women are great and Tellier is grateful for their generosity and the publicity the show will generate.

Yu, some of whose photographs on display were taken during a visit to rural China last summer, called the show *Common Mess* to describe our mutual struggle against poverty and indignity. "I look at all I have and I can't help but feel grateful," he says. "I'm not wealthy. I'm a student. I'm giving my time and a little of myself

## [preview] visual arts

through my art. I don't think I can change the world. I'm not that ambitious. But I can have an impact on the world I live in."

### Soulus in wonderland

The show's opening attracted a young, eclectic crowd, especially since it proceeded an open-mic poetry slam. Tables overflowed with tank tops, sculpted hair and baggy denim. But the usual inane bar conversation was replaced with talk of image, beauty, texture and medium. DJ Soulus, a.k.a. Alicia Karasiuk, says she enjoys playing gigs like this. "There's a lot of talking going on," she observes. "It's not just drinking and partying. There's some intellectual discussion going on. It's the art."

Leanne Fong, also 22 and, like



Yu, a photographer for *The Gateway*, contributed three photo pieces to the show—a triptych of fall scenes on campus, another triptych of a Capoeira demonstration in New Zealand and an architectural study of the Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia. In her third year of recreation and leisure studies at U of A, Fong agreed immediately when Yu asked her to participate. "I'm not working right now but it was a good cause," she says. "And you get your photographs out there." Photography is a sideline for her, but, she says, "I think it will always be a part of my life. It feels so good to capture something beautiful. It's kind of an escape."

*Common Mess* will run at the Backroom Vodka Bar until the end of January. Yu said he plans to close the show sometime in early February. If items remain unsold, he plans to offer last-minute deals to patrons. Look for posters of the closing events. ☐

**Common Mess**  
Backroom Vodka Bar  
(10324 Whyte Ave) • To Jan 31

very nervous neophyte playwright and Kaufman was one of the towering icons of the Broadway stage—will spot a certain similarity between the two playwrighting teams as well.

You can only take the comparison so far, though. Lemoine certainly holds a Kaufman-like position on the Edmonton theatre scene, but Dean is hardly a nobody. He's a regular cast member of *Theatresports*, *Chimpro* and *Die-Nasty*, while his enthusiastic, slightly stylized stage presence and his boyish good looks—he's the rare young actor who can actually wear a bow tie and make it look good—has landed him lead roles in several Stewart Lemoine shows, most recently *On the Banks of the Nut* and *The Hothouse Prince*. Still, he's never written a stage play before, and, like Moss Hart, he began the project very much looking forward to "learning from the master."

"For me," Dean says over his cellphone, "the experience was an opportunity to work with my favourite playwright—and, I think, a genius—and

simply to learn the craft of writing.... It was a great lesson both in play structure and in learning how to write dialogue. As an actor, I've always been struck by how easy it is to memorize despite how wordy and quick it is. It's just so natural; he knows *rhythm*. It's interesting to sit there and watch him—he'll type a sentence, and then he'll go back and add

SEE NEXT PAGE

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**THEATRE NOTES**

all the world is a stage

BY PAUL MATWYCHUK

## Muskrat ramble

**Caribbean Muskrat** • Library Theatre • Sat, Jan 18 (2 and 8pm); Sun, Jan 19 (2pm) • **preVUE** The press material for *Caribbean Muskrat*, a new comedy co-written by Stewart Lemoine and Josh Dean, calls it a madcap romp bearing a strong resemblance to the '30s comedies of George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart. But anyone who's ever read Moss Hart's wonderful memoir *Act One*—which contains an extended account of Hart's collaboration with Kaufman on *Once in a Lifetime*, at a time when Hart was a young,



Playwrights Josh Dean and Stewart Lemoine

## Popular Mechanics

January 31, 2003

7-11pm, Concert at 9pm

It's the next installment in the *After Dark* series, an evening of art and entertainment

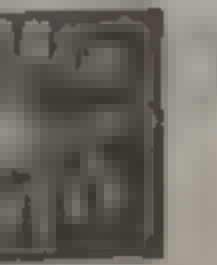
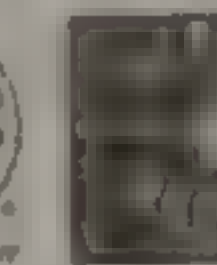
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Featured Musical Guest: **Steve Pineo**, winner of the 2001 Prairie Music Award for Best Roots Album

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**VUE WEEKLY**

**AFTER DARK**

The Edmonton Art Gallery  
2 Sir Winston Churchill Square  
780-422-6223



# Astral Horoscope

By MATT SHORT



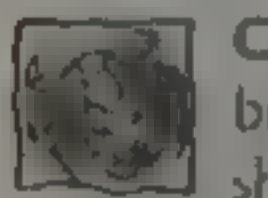
**ARIES** (Mar 20-Apr 19): Your emotional and sexual levels have been recently elevated. The planets have prompted you to take immediate risks, make sudden decisions and have unexpected sexual encounters with a friend or the signs Aquarius and Capricorn, but these unstable influences will soon improve dramatically. When your planetary ruler, Mars, moves into the sign of Sagittarius on January 18, harmony will be restored for your sign. Higher forms of education, places of worship, in-laws, travel and foreign themes are in your forecast. Romantic interludes are also soon to come. Leo may be involved.



**TAURUS** (Apr 20-May 19): Now that your planetary ruler, Venus, has moved into the lucky sign of Sagittarius, expect your optimism to get you everywhere. A secret sexual fantasy could materialize with a friend from work on January 18, along with a possible undercover promotion and working generally behind the scenes. Inheritance from a parent, love affairs found during long journeys or with a foreigner are both possible, or maybe a relationship with the sign Sagittarius will find its way to your doorstep on January 21. Late rent cheques and problems getting home are also shown. The signs Aries, Gemini and Virgo could play a role.



**GEMINI** (May 20-June 20): Your planetary ruler, Mercury, seemingly continues to move backwards in space, disrupting your inner harmony. Recent attempts at change could begin to disintegrate due to diehard habits and hectic work schedules. Sporting events, creative pursuits, situations involving children and love affairs with the sign Leo are all possible around January 19, but look back to unfulfilled desires for completion for the best chance of success at this time. Bad timing, lack of sexual opportunity, delayed tax returns and problems with your partner's financial situation are also shown.



**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): As the Moon moves through your sign, lunar energies could bring out the best in you. Look out for general communication problems in love relationships and business partnerships, particularly on January 17 with younger people or the signs Gemini or Virgo. The full moon on January 18 should be used for domestic strengths, entertaining and cooking your specialty. Financial benefits dealing with universities, foreign trade and involving the signs Sagittarius and Pisces are shown for January 19. Prepare for unexpected blockages in your daily routine on January 20. Your car and the signs Aquarius and Capricorn could be involved.



**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22): As your ruling Sun moves through the last few degrees of Capricorn, stress levels will begin to diminish. You will slowly notice an improvement in your physical health and working environment due to these cosmic changes. Bad timing, transportation challenges and missed telephone calls from your mother and the sign Cancer are shown around January 19. When the Sun enters Aquarius and your 7th house on January 21, sexual and energy levels will begin to increase as more focus will be directed toward lovers and business partnerships. Artistic ambitions and romantic love affairs are forecast for late next week. The signs Aries and Scorpio could play a part.



**VIRGO** (Aug 23-Sept 22): As your planetary ruler, Mercury, moves in reverse through your 5th house, communications with children and romantic partners could remain problematic, particularly around January 19 with the signs Leo, Taurus and Aries. Although moving forward may be difficult at this time, reorganization and looking back to unfinished artistic projects for completion could bring success. Cancelled dates, concerts and sporting events are also shown, but will more than likely be rescheduled. Use caution driving for recreational purposes. The signs Taurus and Scorpio may also apply.



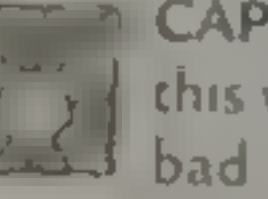
**LIBRA** (Sept 23-Oct 22): Your planetary ruler, Venus, is currently moving through your 3rd house, bringing good news by phone or mail, daily creativity, good standing with neighbours and trips both long and short. The discovery of secret information regarding your health or work situation could be revealed on January 18, along with secret activities and undercover romantic affairs with the signs Pisces or Aries. Friends from work could turn out to be more than just friends, especially with the sign Sagittarius on January 21. Job promotion, robust health and long-distance love affairs are also shown at this time.



**SCORPIO** (Oct 23-Nov 21): You are temporarily trapped in a space between the best and worst conditions. Good things should continue to happen with your career and financial situation, especially involving the signs Sagittarius and Pisces. But problems with authority figures, the sign Capricorn and overwork with little pay may temporarily block your recent good fortune. Remember that you are learning the lessons you need to use what blessings you have received. Homes, cooking, mothers and the sign Cancer are highlighted for January 19. Travel may be necessary for success. Libra, Leo and Aquarius may be involved.



**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov 22-Dec 21): It will become increasingly difficult for you to face reality as your planetary ruler, Jupiter, receives fantasy-like energies from Neptune. Movies, television, sleep, drugs and alcohol could all be used to excess at this time, but your creative levels may also soar, especially concerning photography, dance, acting and music. You're looking physically attractive with Venus currently moving through your sign, even more so if you were born before December 1. Social situations and love relationships may fall into your lap on January 21, especially with the signs Libra and Taurus. Look out for paying your telephone bill late!



**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22-Jan 20): Things are more confusing than ever for your sign this week, especially if you were born anywhere close to January 4. Forgetfulness, bad timing, delays, cancellations and transportation challenges are all possible. Going back to deal with unfinished business could help to bring inner peace at this time. Short-term employment and multiple forms of income are likely, as your good friends and the sign Aquarius help you find jobs or benefit you financially. Use caution at work, especially when travelling or dealing with foreign people. Don't avoid needed changes when they are staring you in the face. The signs Scorpio or Aries may apply.



**AQUARIUS** (Jan 21-Feb 18): You can't seem to get a break from personal transformation with Pluto hounding your planetary ruler, Uranus. These energies may be difficult, but they will bring you closer to your goal. Joined finances, rebirth, psychic phenomena and extreme sexuality have become constant themes, but instability, sudden intuition and unexpected urges are likely for those born after February 16. Sporting events, creativity, situations involving children and romantic opportunities with the sign Leo are all indicated around January 18. Older lovers and marriages are also shown. The sign Capricorn could be involved.



**PISCES** (Feb 19-Mar 19): Excitability and high expectations surround you as Jupiter slowly steps before your planetary ruler, Neptune. You may be scattering too many seeds that you don't realistically have time to water. Empowerment could come from looking back to old dreams and acknowledging the part of you that has been left behind. Travel, higher learning and places of worship may be part of the picture, but don't expect things to be like they are in your head. Artistic pursuits, social activities, benefits from females and romantic opportunities are shown around January 17, especially with the signs Taurus and Libra. Gather information, but do not act!

## Theatre Notes

Continued from previous page

two more syllables to it, which will transform it into an entirely different thing."

The play itself has one of those frothy, trivial-yet-complex plotlines that practically defy a comprehensive summary. ("It's set in Kelowna, first of all," says Dean, "which we both think is just hilarious.") Most of the action revolves around the efforts of a society woman (Celina Stachow) to convince the obsti-

nate staff at a nearby animal customs house to allow her to transport the title animal—a rare species of aquatic rodent she's won as a prize—across the U.S./Canada border. "Basically," says Dean (who plays Stachow's boyfriend, not the rodent), "a small love story develops from that situation. We're calling it sort of an indie romance. I don't really know what that means, but that's what we're calling it."

After the Comedy Arts Festival, the play (which also stars Lemoine regular Briana Buckmaster) heads to Calgary

for the High Performance Rodent. What becomes of it after that, though, is anybody's guess—maybe it'll end up in a future Teatro la Quindici season, maybe they'll take it to the Winnipeg Fringe. "But those are just pipe dreams at this point," Dean says, before the sheer pressure of being interviewed as a playwright finally overwhelms him. "I can't answer all these things!" he wails helplessly as the interview ends. "It's so new at all of this! God, I'm just tired in sweat over here...." ☐

## ARTS WEEKLY

For a FREE listing, fax 426-2889 or e-mail listings@vue.ab.ca.

Deadline is 3pm Friday.

### ART GALLERIES

Also see What's Happening Downtown page 41.

**ART BEAT GALLERY** 8 Mission Ave., St. Albert, 459-3679. New works by Igor Postash, Yvonne Rivard and Evalynne McDougall. New artist to the gallery, Julie Denencourt.

**BOHEMIA CYBER CAFÉ** 11012 Jasper Ave., 429-3442. **CONFLUENCE:** Paintings by Shara Rosko, William Purnell, James Kwong. Until Jan. 31.

**BUZZY'S** 10416-82 Ave. **WHAT! FLOWERS AGAIN:** Watercolour with wax on ricepaper by Sheilagh Knox. Jan. 25-Feb. 1. Opening reception SAT, Jan. 25, 1-4pm. Artist in attendance.

**CHRISTL BERGSTROM'S RED GALLERY** 9621-82 Ave., 439-8210. [www.christlbergstrom.com](http://www.christlbergstrom.com). Open Mon-Fri 11am-5pm; Sat by appointment. 2002, *A YEAR IN REVIEW*. Portraits, landscapes and nudes.

**CYBERTOPIA INTERNET CAFÉ** 11607 Jasper Ave. **WOMEN'S TEARS, WOMEN'S FEARS:** Expressionist paintings by Patricia Laing. Until Feb. 1.

**ELECTRUM DESIGN STUDIO** 12419 Stony Plain Rd., 482-1402. Open Tue-Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 10am-4pm. **NEW YEAR GROUP SHOW:** Jewellery by Wayne Mackenzie, Janet Stein, John Blair, Peter McKay; glass works by Robert Held, Jeff Holmwood; paintings by Randy Weiss, Kate More. Photography by Chris Stromich, textiles by Margie Davidson, ceramics by Joanna Drummond, painting and sculpture by Sharon More-Foster. Until Feb. 1.

**EXTENSION CENTRE GALLERY** 2nd Fl., University Extension Centre, 8303-112 St., 492-3034. Open Mon-Thu 8:30am-8pm, Fri, 8:30am-4:30pm, Sat 9am-noon. Annual Student exhibition. Until Feb. 5.

**FORT DOOR** 10308-81 Ave., 432-7535. Open Mon-Wed, Sat 10am-6pm; Thu-Fri 10am-9pm; Sun 12-5pm. Eskimo soapstone carvings, Inuk whalebone by J. Jacobson. West coast Indian and Eskimo gold and silver jewellery by J. Gilbert. Turquoise jewellery by P. Sanchez. Through Jan.

**THE FRINGE GALLERY** Bsm., 10516 Whyte Ave., 432-0240. Open daily 9:30am-6pm. Closed Sun. Cast lead and aluminium works by Brent Irving. Until Jan. 31.

**GARNEAU THEATRE** 8712-109 St., 433-0728. **FLOWER POWER:** A series of watercolour paintings by Willie Wong. Through Jan.

**GENERATIONS GALLERY** 5411-51 St., Stony Plain, 963-2777. Open daily 10am-4pm. Paintings by Feronica Funk, Anne Page, Vickie Newington, Sharon Deblanc. Until Feb. 10.

**HARCOURT HOUSE** 10215-112 St., 426-4180. Open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 12-4pm. **PAROLIN PRODUCTS FOR BUSY PEOPLE:** Works by Maria Anna Parolin. Until Feb. 8. **FRONT ROOM: SYMBIOSIS:** Work by Gloria Mok. Until Feb. 8.

**HOTHOUSE** 8004 Gateway Blvd. **THE ILLUSIONIST AND THE ARCHETYPE:** Photography, paintings and poetry by Francis A. Wiley. Opening night THU, Jan. 16, 7-9pm with guitar and voice and live spoken word by the artist. Jan. 16-Feb. 18.

**JASPER ARTISTS GUILD (JAG)** 622 Connaught Sq., Jasper. **A BRUSH WITH NIGHT:** Group show exploring aspects of night. Through Jan.

**JASPER YELLOWHEAD MUSEUM** Jasper, 852-3013. Open Thu-Sun, 10am-5pm. Mon-Wed by appointment. **LANDBASED: A SHOW OF THE LAND:** Presented by the Jasper Artists Guild. Jan. 18-Feb. 2. TIX \$2. Opening reception SAT, Jan. 18, 7-10pm.

**JEFF ALLEN ART GALLERY** Strathcona Place, 10831 University Ave., 433-5807. Group exhibition. Until Jan. 30.

**JOHNSON GALLERY** 7711-85 St., 465-6171. Open Mon-Fri 8am-5:30pm; Sat 9am-5pm. Watercolours and prints by Don

Capogreco. Oil paintings by Don Sharpe. New works by Elizabeth Hibbs. Historical and recent photographs of Edmonton. Until Jan. 31. •11817-80 St. Open Tue-Fri: 9:30am-5:30pm; Sat 9:30am-4pm. Original art and prints by Jack Ellis, Toti, Joe Haire, Wendy Risdale, Jim Painter, Dave Ripley, Jim Brager, George Weber. Pottery by Noboru Kubo. Until Jan. 31.

**KAMENA GALLERY AND FRAMES** 5718-104 St., 944-9497. New limited edition prints and watercolours by Willie Wong. Acrylic paintings by Kee T. Wong. Recreations of masters by various artists. Through Jan.

**LISTEN RECORDS** 10649-124 St., 453-1881. **PLUNDEROPTICS:** Sample-based print and sound art by Construct. Until Feb. 1.

**McMULLEN GALLERY** University of Alberta Hospital, East Entrance, 8440-112 St., 407-7152. •**VISUAL SOUND:** Visual exhibit of music and sound expressions by the senior art students from Victoria High School. Until Jan. 26. •After Hours: On display outside the gallery. Two large-scale watercolours by Leslie Taillefer.

**MODERN EYES GALLERY AND GIFT** 24 Perron Street, St. Albert, 459-9102. Open Tue-Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 10am-4pm. Paintings by Graham Flatt, Ian Sheldon, Georgia Graham, Lorraine Oberg and Judith Rosenthal. Sculpture by Roy Leadbeater, Delaney Corbett and Fred Oberg. Jewellery by Maggie Walt. Art on tile, giftware and antique furniture. SAT, Jan. 18, 10am-4pm, Graham Flatt will be painting watercolours and signing his new Iris prints.

**NORTHERN STYLES NATIVE ARTS SOCIETY** 201, 12510-82 St., 477-0000. [www.northernstyles.net](http://www.northernstyles.net). Featuring Native art and fashion exhibits.

**PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY** 19 Perron Street, St. Albert, 460-4310. Open Mon-Sat 10-5pm. Thu 10am-8pm. •**MILLENNIUM IN A BOX:** A collection of bookworks by The Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild. •**MARKING TIME:** Paintings by Margaret Witschl. Until Feb. 1.

**SCOTT GALLERY** 10411-124 St., 488-3619. Open Tue-Sat 10am-5pm. Jack Reid (watercolours), Jim Visser (landscapes), Angelique Gillespie (new works), Tom Willock (photographs). Quebec landscape artists including new work by Vladimir Horik. Rotating exhibition through Jan.

**SNOWBIRD GALLERY** WEM, 8882-170 St., 444-1024. Featuring works by J. Yardley-Jones and Gregg Johnson. Acrylics by Jim Vest, pottery by Noboru Kubo and Jacqueline Stenberg. Art glass available. Artists in the courtyard continues every weekend.

**STUDIO GALLERY** 143 Grandin Park Plaza, St. Albert, 460-5990. Open Tue-Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 10am-4pm. **CONTIGUOUS:** Artists' collective gallery presenting urban scenes, ruralscapes, portraits and abstracts by local artists. Until Feb. 22.

**SWEETWATER CAFÉ** 102 Ave., 124 St. **ICE AND SOLEIL:** Group show. Until Feb. 5.

**THE VAAA GALLERY** 3rd Fl. Harcourt House, 10215-112 St., 421-1731. **CRAGS AND COVES:** New work by René Thibault. Jan. 9-Feb. 8. Opening reception THU, Jan. 9, 7:30-9:30pm.

**VANDERLEELIE GALLERY** 10183-112 St., 452-0286. Open Tue-Sat 10am-5:30pm. Group show of gallery artists paintings by David Alexander, James Lahey, Brenet McIntosh, David Cantine, Jonathan Forrest. Sculpture by Isla Burns. Until Jan. 31.

**WALTERDALE PLAYHOUSE** 10322-83 Ave., 439-2845. **ART IN THE LOBBY:** Photographs by Nicole Piotrkowski. Jan. 22-25, 28-Feb. 1, 7pm; Sun, Jan. 26, 1pm.

### DANCE

**ARDEN THEATRE** 5 St. Anne Street, St. Albert, 459-1542. Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal. Jan. 21-22, 8pm.

**CAPOEIRA ACADEMY** 6807-104 St., 709-3500. [www.capeoiraedmonton.ca](http://www.capeoiraedmonton.ca). •Every THU (7-8pm) and SAT (2-3pm): Brazilian mix of martial arts, dance and Afro-Brazilian rhythms. Rhythmic Capoeira dance. Open

promos all week.

**JOHN L. HAAR THEATRE** Grant MacEwan College, 10045-156 St., 497-4416. Presented by the Brian Webb Dance Company. **Portraits Solos:** Cori Caulfield, Vancouver-based interdisciplinary performer and choreographer. Jan. 17-18, 8pm. TIX \$20 adult, \$15 student/senior @ door.

### THEATRE

Also see What's Happening Downtown page 41.

**ALL FOR ONE** Celebrations Dinner Theatre 13103 Fort Rd., 448-9339. Musical. One of the King's loyal musketeers is missing. D'Artagnan has been replaced by a girl. Someone is making trouble in the King's court. What can two out-of-work musketeers do to save the day? Until Feb. 1.

**THE BRITISH ARE COMING AGAIN** Mayfield Dinner Theatre, 16615-109 Ave., 483-4051, 486-7827. By Will Marks and Joe Harris. A follow-up to *The British Invasion*. A tribute to your favourite recording artists, spiced with humour. Until Feb. 23.

**CHIMPROVI** The New Varscona Theatre, 10329-83 Ave., 420-1757, 448-0695. Every Saturday at 11pm. Featuring Rapid Fire Theatre's top improvisers.

**CITY DUDES AND COUNTRY SLICKERS** Jubilations Dinner Theatre, Upper Level, Phase 3, WEM, 484-2424. Several "slickers" from the city arrive at a dude ranch on the prairies to try to come to terms with their modern day problems and their messed-up lives. Until Jan. 26.

**DIE-NASTY** Varscona Theatre, 10329-83 Ave. Every Mon, 8pm. The legendary live improvised soap opera celebrates its twelfth season. Set at the height of the great depression, in the community of Ridge Valley Mountain Flats, Lemoine County, U.S.A. Directed by Dana Andersen. Produced by Stewart Lemoine.

**THE GLACE BAY MINERS MUSEUM** The New Varscona Theatre, 10329-83 Ave., 420-1757. Presented by Shadow Theatre. By Wendy Lill. Based on the novel by Sheldon Currie. Set in Cape Breton at the end of World War II. A poetic story recounting the romance between a wandering musician-social idealist and a coal miner's daughter. Jan. 23-Feb. 9, Tue-Sat 8pm; Sat Sun mat 2pm. TIX \$16, \$13 student/senior/equity member, \$10 Tue evenings; Sat mat pay-what-you-can. @ TIX on the Square.

**MON JOYAU** La Cité francophone, 8627-91 St., 469-8400. Presented by L'Unité. By Joan MacLeod. Performed in French. A young widow comes to terms with the heart-breaking memory of the tragedy that claimed her husband's life. Jan. 23-26 and Jan. 30-Feb. 2, 8pm; Sun mat 2pm. TIX \$17 @ L'Unité - La Librairie Le Carrefour.

**THE NIGHT OF THE IGUANA** Walderdale Playhouse, 10322-83 Ave., 439-2845. By Tennessee Williams. Defrocked Rev. Shannon is thrown into conflict with his hotel's lusty proprietor. Jan. 22-Feb. 1. TIX \$12-\$14 adult \$10-\$12 student/senior @ TicketMaster.

**OH SUSANNA** Varscona Theatre, 10329-83 Ave. Glamour-gal Susanna Patchouli! Euro-style variety show fun and antics guided by the firm hand of glamorous international uber-babe Susanna Patchouli. Next show: Sat Feb. 1, 11pm.

**THE PROJECT** Azimuth Theatre Space, 11315-106 Ave., 454-0583. Presented by Flyer Productions. Haunting music and text Jan. 23-Feb. 2.

**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL FALSETTOS** Jubilations Dinner Theatre, Upper Level, Phase III, WEM, 484-2424. Musical. The God-Mudder-head of the Spumoni family—and Tony, the head of the Falsettos, plan a "meetin'" at the casino. Their plan is to peacefully "move in" and "carve up" the prairies. Jan. 31-Apr. 6.

**THEATRESPORTS** New Varscona Theatre, 10329-83 Ave., 448-0695. Every Friday @ 11pm Rapid Fire Theatre features teams of improvisers.

**UPSIDE DOWN** Catalyst Theatre, 8529-103 St., 420-1757, 431-1750. Blind Dates with Theatre series. Presented by Russian physical theatre company, DoTheatre. Until Jan. 18, 8pm; Sat mat. 2pm. TIX \$21.40 adult, \$16.05



## EVENTS WEEKLY

FREE listing, fax 426-2889 or  
listings@vue.ab.ca.

line is 3 pm Friday.

see What's Happening Downtown  
41.

## DISPLAYS/MUSEUMS

**ALBERTA AVIATION MUSEUM** 11410  
Way Ave., 451-1175. Open daily 10am-  
5pm. The story of Edmonton's bush pilots,  
the Highway construction, defence of Russia  
commercial aviation development.

**ANIAN BOTANIC GARDEN** 5 km SW of  
Edmonton on Hwy 60, 987-3054. Open week-  
days 10am-5pm. Authentic Japanese garden, nature trail,  
herbs of connected gardens. TIX \$6.50  
adult; \$5.75 student/senior; \$4 child; \$20 fam-  
ily. Children under 4 free.

**ANJANZEN NATURE CENTRE** Fox Dr.,  
Edmonton, 451-1175. Open daily 10am-  
5pm. Discover how nature adapts to  
changes in the seasons. •**EXHIBIT ROOM** SUN-  
DAY THEMES/ SUNDAY DROP-IN ACTIVITIES:  
Join us and explore a new theme with  
nature and art.

**AL EDMONTON REGIMENT MILITARY**  
Museum Prince of Wales Armouries, 10440-  
10 Ave., 421-9943. HORSE WARRIORS: WHEN  
ADRIANS GALLOPED INTO BATTLE:  
Photographs and artifacts.

**ÉE HÉRITAGE MUSEUM** St. Albert  
Museum, 5 St. Anne Street, St. Albert. 459-1528.  
Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 1-5pm. •**DIS-**  
COVERY ROOM: An interactive educational  
space dedicated to children and families.  
Admission \$2.

**MUTTART CONSERVATORY** 9626-96A St.,  
496-8755. Open Mon-Fri 9am-6pm; Sat-Sun  
11am-6pm. •**ROMANCE IN THE AIR:** Until Mar.  
2. TIX \$5.25 adult, \$4.25 senior/youth, \$2.75  
child, \$16 family.

**ODYSSIEUM** 11211-142 St., 452-9100. Open  
Sun-Thu, 10am-5pm; Fri-Sat 10am-9pm.  
Edmonton's space and science centre.

**PROVINCIAL MUSEUM OF ALBERTA**  
12845-102 Ave., 453-9100, 453-9100.  
www.pma.edmonton.ab.ca. Open weekdays  
9am-9pm; weekends 9am-5pm. •**SYNCRUDE**  
CANADA ABORIGINAL PEOPLES GALLERY:  
Spans 11,000 years and 500 generations, peo-  
ple of the past and present, recordings, film,  
lights, artifacts and more. Permanent exhibit.

•**THE WILD ALBERTA PREVIEW GALLERY:**  
Sneak peek at the new gallery's layout.  
•**ANCIENT ROME:** Until Apr. 21. •**TREA-**  
SURES OF THE EARTH: Geology collection.  
Permanent exhibit. •**BIG THINGS:** Large-scale  
sculptures by artists of the North Edmonton  
Sculpture Workshop. Until April. •**BONE DIG-**  
GERS: Until Mar. 9. •**THE NATURAL HISTORY**  
GALLERY: •**BUG ROOM:** Live invertebrate dis-  
play. Permanent exhibit. •**THE BIRD**  
GALLERY: Mounted birds. Permanent exhibit.

•**A TO Z AT THE MUSEUM:** Every SAT (9 am-  
11am): family-fun drop-in program. Admission  
is half-price between 9am-11am. •**BROWN**  
BAG LUNCH SERIES Museum Theatre. 2nd  
WED ea. month. •**EVENINGS AT ALICE'S:**  
At the Museum Café, last FRI evening of  
each month.

**RUTHERFORD HOUSE** 11153 Saskatchewan  
Dr., U of A Campus, 427-3995. Open Tue-Sun,  
12 noon-5pm. Costumed interpreters recreate  
daily household activities. SUN 19 (12-4pm):  
Robbie Burns Day celebration. Poetry readings,  
bagpipes, address to the haggis. TIX \$3 adult,  
\$2 senior/youth (7-17), \$8 family. Children 6

years and under free.

years and under free.

**TELEPHONE HISTORICAL CENTRE** 10437-  
83 Ave., 433-1010. •Open Tue-Fri 10am-4pm;  
Sat 12-4pm. Telecommunications museum. An  
interactive educational gallery.

## KIDS STUFF

**CAPOEIRA ACADEMY** 6807-104 St. 709  
3500, www.capoeiraedmonton.ca. Capoeira  
for kids: Brazilian mix of martial arts, dance  
and Afro-Brazilian rhythms. Drop-ins welcome.  
Open House Feb. 3, 8pm.

**EDMONTON ITOSU-KAI KARATE** Grandin  
Elementary School, 110 St., 98 Ave., 975-6910,  
886-0386. •Every TUE and FRI (6:30-8pm):  
Classes for 10-year-olds, parents and adults.

## LECTURES/MEETINGS

**THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY** 639-10830 Jasper  
Ave., 424-1740. WED 29 (6pm): Information  
meeting for joints in Motion.

**CAPILANO LIBRARY** 201 Capilano Mall, 98  
Ave., 50 St., 496-1802. •Every FRI (10am):  
Sounder sleep. Until Apr. 25. Pre-register.  
THU 16 (6pm): Creative memories class. Pre-  
register. SAT 18 (2pm): Childbirth-Beautiful  
Birth. Info night. Pre-register.

**EDMONTON ASSOCIATION FOR BRIGHT**  
CHILDREN Alberta School for the Deaf, Sun  
Room, 6240-113 St., 986-7920. SAT 25  
(10am-noon): Brighter Horizons Adult  
Education Series: EABC Open Forum. Free.

**GARNEAU SCHOOL** 202, 8540-109 St., 425-  
7993. THU 16: Childbirth film and information  
night. Speaker Bev O'Brian (midwife). Free.  
Pre-register.

**MILLWOODS WELCOME CENTRE**  
Millbourne Market Mall, 38 Ave., Millwoods  
Rd., 425-4644. TUE 28 (2:30-4:30pm):  
Discussion-style focus group on racial equity in  
Edmonton schools.

**PUBLIC MEETING** •Grace Lutheran Church,  
9907-114 St., 496-6171. THU 16 (7pm):  
Proposed amendment to the Oliver Area  
Redevelopment Plan. •McLeod Elementary  
Sch., 14807-59 St., 496-6126. MON 27  
(7pm): Proposed amendments to the  
Edmonton North area Structure Plan, Schonee  
Neighbourhood Structure Plan, and the  
Zoning Bylaw. •496-5809. THU 30 (7pm):  
Proposed amendment Hollick-Kenyon  
Neighbourhood Structure Plan.

**PUBLIC SKATING** Rivervale, www.edmon-  
ton.ca/rivervale. •Rundle Park ponds, 113  
Ave., 29 St., 11am-10pm. •Hawrelak Park lake,  
Groat Rd., 11am-10pm. •Victoria Park oval,  
122 St., River Valley Rd., 10am-10pm. Closed  
to the public Tue, Thu 5:30-8:30pm; Wed 6-  
7pm. •Jackie Parker pond, 50 St., 44 Ave.,  
11am-10pm. •Mill Woods Campus Park, 66  
St., 23 Ave., 11am-10pm. •Castle Downs, 155  
Ave., 113A St., 8am-10pm. •City Hall, 1 Sir  
Winston Churchill Sq., 10am-10pm.

**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA** •Business  
Building, Room 1-5 492-9136. FRI 17  
(3:30pm): Department of Political Science,  
University of Alberta Speaker Series. Heather  
Smith, University of Northern British Columbia  
presents *Half Truths and Hidden Meanings:*  
*Canada, Kyoto and Climate Change.*

•**Engineering Teaching Learning Centre** 1-  
013, 492-5825. THU 23 (4:30pm):  
Watersheds, Wetlands and Oceans: Dr. Lee  
Foote, Renewable Resources, U of A presents  
*Alberta Wetlands: The Joke is on Us!*

**WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION** Gold  
Bar Park, 439-1415. SUN 26 (10am): Free  
guided x-country ski. Approx. 10 km at Gold  
Bar Park. Bring lunch and beverage. Non-  
members welcome.

**WEST END TOASTMASTERS** 10451-170 St.,  
2nd Fl. Boardroom (use central elevator), 472-  
4911. Learn to speak in public and small  
groups. Sharpen your listening skills. Acquire  
appropriate feedback techniques in a friendly  
environment.

## LITERARY

**GREENWOODS BOOKSHOPPE** 7925-104  
St., 439-2005. THU 16 (7:30pm): Reading and  
signing with Ian McGillis, author of *A Tourist's*  
*Guide to Glenora*. TUE 28 (6:30pm): Book  
signing with Robert Jordan, author of  
*Crossroads of Twilight*.

**LESSARD LIBRARY** Lessard Shopping  
Centre, 6104-172 St., 496-1871. WED 22  
(7:30pm): Murder in the library. Pre-register.

**STRATHCONA LIBRARY** 8331-104 St.,  
496-1828. THU 30 (7pm): Murder and may-  
hem at Strathcona Library...cereal killers too.  
Pre-register.

**STROLL OF POETS** Various locations. Until  
Jan. 25. •**CITY ARTS CENTRE** 10943-84 Ave.  
THU 16 (7pm): Linda Jennings, Geraldine  
Matus, Andy Michaelson, Jessica Stratton. Free.  
FRI 17 (7pm): Tim Cusack, Kathy Fisher,  
Michelle Lambert, Ben Murray. Free. •**WHITE-**  
**MUD CROSSING LIBRARY** 145, 4211-106 St.  
SUN 19 (2pm): Tanya Dion, Anne Marshall,  
Christina Tower, Ken Wilson. Free. •**STRATH-**  
**CONA LEGION** 10416-81 Ave. SAT 25 (7pm):  
Eleven performers by audience demand from  
preceeding 11 days. Robbie Burns Day celebra-  
tions: Justin McMurdo. Hot Cottage (R&B  
music) after the readings. TIX \$8 adv. @ read-  
ings and Greenwood's; \$12 @ door.

**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA** Education South  
Building, Rm. 1-22, 433-9645. FRI 31 (7pm):  
Writers circle. (8pm): The Canadian Authors  
Association Alberta Branch. Presentation  
by Gloria Sawai. \$10 non-members. Free  
for Canadian Authors members or first-time  
visitors.

**WHITEMUD CROSSING LIBRARY** 145  
Whitemud Crossing Shopping Centre, 4211-  
106 St. 496-1822. THU 16 (7pm): Whitemud  
Crossing Library Fiction Book Group. All ages

SEE NEXT PAGE

# What's Happening Downtown!

## ART GALLERIES

**ALBERTA CRAFT COUNCIL GALLERY**  
10186-106 St., 488 G-6611, 488-5900. Open  
Mon-Sat 10am-5pm (closed all hols). MAIN  
GALLERY: FLASHES OF GREATNESS: Woodfired  
pottery from around the province. Until Apr.  
1. •**DISCOVERY GALLERY: MIGRATION:**  
Works in clay by Dawn Detarando. Jan. 25-  
Mar. 1. Opening reception Jan. 25, 3-5pm.

**EDMONTON ART GALLERY** 2 Sir Winston  
Churchill Sq., 422-6223, www.eag.org. Open  
Tue-Wed and Fri 10:30am-5pm; Thu  
10:30am-8pm; Sat, Sun 11am-5pm. Closed  
Mon. •**PIXELS, SPOTS AND POLKADOTS:**  
Perception and Meaning in Art. Until Aug.

•**THE UNCANNY:** Experiments in Cyborg  
Culture. Until Feb. 23. •**KITCHEN GALLERY:**  
DARCI MALLON: THE GOLGI STUDIES. Until  
Feb. 23. •**RECENT ACQUISITIONS:** The Sinclair  
Bequest. Until Mar. 9. •**LECTURE:** Will Bauer:  
*The Moveable Feast—Cyborgs Built with Human*

*Flesh*. SUN, Jan. 19, 2pm. •420-1757. AFTER  
DARK: FRI, Jan. 31, 7pm door. Popular  
Mechanics, explores society's fascination and  
fear with man and machine. Feature concert,  
gallery tours, food, drink specials, and door  
prizes. (9pm): Steve Pineo (grassroots music),  
7:30pm, 8pm, 8:30pm: gallery tours. TIX  
\$20 @ Edmonton Art Gallery, TIX on the  
Square. Proceeds go towards programming at  
the Edmonton Art Gallery. •**CHILDREN'S**  
GALLERY: BECOME: Created by Don Moar.

Until July. •Admission: Members free, \$6  
adult; \$4 senior/student; \$2 children (6-12),  
free children (5 and under).

**GIORDANO GALLERY** Main Fl., Empire  
Building, 10080 Jasper Ave., 429-5066.  
www.giordanogallery.com. Open Wed, Sat  
12-4pm or by appointment.

**EGHERS STUDIO GALLERY** 604A, 10030-  
107 St., Seventh Street Plaza, North Tower,  
425-6885. Open Tue-Thu 5:30-9pm or by  
appointment. Featuring works by David  
Eggers, Robert von Eschen, Eric Butterworth,  
Jeff Collins, Pamela How (Vilsec), Neil  
McClelland, Jacqui Rohac.

**SNAP GALLERY** 10137-104 St., 423-1492.  
Open Tue-Sat 12-5pm. WRITHE: Works by Lisa  
Puopolo, including the enormous *Fleshmobile*.  
Until Feb. 8.

**SOSA (SOCIETY OF STUDENT ARTISTS)**  
GALLERY 10154-103 St., Basement, 707-  
8305. Winter Portfolio Show. Until Jan. 30.

**SPECTRUM ART GALLERY AND STUDIO**

10867-96 St., 424-8803. Open daily 10am-  
6pm. Paintings by Christopher Lucas. Work by  
Patricia Young, Bridgit Turner, Deanna Larson  
and David Phillips.

**STUDIO 321** 10168-100A St., Rice Howard  
Way, 424-6746. FATHER-SON EXHIBIT, THE  
SEQUEL: Open studio. Jan. 18-19, 1-4pm.

**THE WORKS GALLERY** 10155 Jasper Ave.,  
Main Fl., Commerce Place, 426-2122.  
CAROUSEL: Large-scale piece, by Paul  
Freeman, consisting of approximately 450  
photographs. Until Jan. 31.

## DISPLAYS/MUSEUMS

**MCKAY AVENUE SCHOOL** 10425-99 Ave.,  
422-1970. Archives and museum located  
along the river valley on the Heritage Trail.  
Stroll in the Victorian-era park.

## KIDS STUFF

**EDMONTON ART GALLERY** 2 Sir Winston  
Churchill Sq., 422-6223. THE CHILDREN'S  
GALLERY: BECOME: Created by Don Moar.  
Until July. For children 4-12 yrs. •Camps and  
classes for children and youth.

**STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY** 7 Sir  
Winston Churchill Sq., 496-7039. •Every SAT  
(10am): Research central, 9-12 yrs. Pre-regis-  
ter. Until June 21. •Every SUN (2pm): Sunday  
storytime. Until May 25.

## LECTURES/MEETINGS

**OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED NETWORK-**  
ING GROUP Edmonton Chamber of  
Commerce, 600, 10123-99 St. (W. door),  
426-4620. FRI 17 (6:45-8:30am): Speaker Seel  
Naidu presents *Investor Behaviour and the*

*Psychology of the Markets*. \$2. Everyone wel-  
come. FRI 24 (6:45-8:30am): Speakers Caroline  
Kit-Shearer and Brian Shearer present *Stress to*

*Success in Minutes*. \$2. Everyone welcome.

**SACRED HEART CHURCH** 10821-96 St.,  
439-0631. •Every FRI: Community Shamanic  
Drumming Circle.

**PUBLIC SKATING** Rivervale, www.edmon-  
ton.ca/rivervale. •City Hall, 1 Sir Winston  
Churchill Sq., 10am-10pm.

## LITERARY

**AUDREYS BOOKS** 10702 Jasper Ave., 423-  
3487. TUE 21: Edmonton Voices, A Unique  
Reading Series: Reading by Gloria Sawai. WED  
22 (7:30pm): Talk by Maurice Yacowar, author  
of *The Sopranos on the Couch: Analyzing*  
*Television's Greatest Series*.

## LIVE COMEDY

**COMEDY ARTS FESTIVAL** 4th annual  
Comedy Arts Festival with performances in all  
arts disciplines. Jan. 17-26. 428-1414, 437-  
8828. •**WINSPEAR CENTRE.** FRI 24 (8pm):  
Gala appearance. •**MACLAB THEATRE.** FRI 17:  
Opening night with Elvira Kurt. •**SHERATON**

**HOTEL.** Women in Comedy brunch. STAN-  
LEY MILNER LIBRARY. FRI 17 (11pm): Sheri-  
D Wilson. SAT 18 (2pm, 9pm): *Caribbean*

*Muskat*. (7pm): *The Slip-knot*. (11pm): Sheri-  
D Wilson. SUN 19 (2pm): *Caribbean Muskrat*.  
TIX @ Winspear Centre box office. TUE 21

(7pm): Funny on Film. WED 22 (8pm): Cheap  
Laughs. THU 23 (8pm): Jest in Time. FRI 24

(11pm): Tammy Faye Starlite. SAT 25 (7pm):  
Jest in Time. (9pm): Shannan Calcutt. (11pm):  
Tammy Faye Starlite. SUN 26 (8pm): Shannan  
Calcutt. (1-5pm): Fun Fest. Free children's  
entertainment.

## QUEER LISTINGS

**BOOTS AND SADDLES** 10242-106 St. Large  
tavern with pool tables, restaurant, shows.  
Members only.

**GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
OF EDMONTON (GLCCE) Suite 45, 9916-  
106 St., 488-3234. www.edmc.net/glcce.  
Open Mon-Fri, 1:30pm-5:30pm; 7pm-10pm.  
Support groups, library, youth group and dis-  
cussion nights.

**GAY MEN'S OUTREACH CREW (GMO)**  
45, 9912-106 St., 488-0564. A peer education  
initiative for gay/ bisexual men that works  
toward preventing the spread of HIV by  
improving self-esteem.

**HIV NETWORK OF EDMONTON SOCIETY**  
600, 10550-102 St., 488-5742. Support  
services for people affected with HIV/AIDS,  
info line, counseling, referrals, support groups,  
preventive education programs, resource cen-  
tre, speakers bureau, Gay Men's Outreach  
Crew (GMO), advocacy and  
public awareness.

**ICARE** 702A, 10242-105 St., 448-1768.  
www.icarealberta.org. The Interfaith Centre  
for AIDS/HIV resources and education (former-  
ly Interfaith Association on AIDS). Providing  
spiritual support and connections for those  
affected by HIV/AIDS.

**ILLUSIONS SOCIAL CLUB** GLCCE, Suite  
45, 9912-106 St. •Every 2nd THU each  
month: Meeting.

**PFLAG** GLCCE, Suite 45, 9912-106 St.,  
462-5958. •Every 3rd TUE (7:30pm):  
Meeting. Support/education for parents,  
families and friends of lesbians/gays/ bisexu-  
als/transgenders.

**THE ROOST** 10345-104th St., 426-3150.  
Open Mon-Sat 4pm-3am; Sun 8pm-3am. A  
multi-level night club. Disco upstairs, western  
downstairs. TUE: Wild and Wet Contest, DJ  
Left. WED: Amateur Strip w/Weena Luv, Sticky  
Vicky, DJ Alvaro. THU: Charity Show. Different  
show every week. DJ Jazzy. FRI: Upstairs:  
Twisted Fruit w/DJs Sweetz, Tripswitch, Alvaro.  
Downstairs: DJ Jazzy, female stripper. SAT:  
Upstairs: DJ Jazzy. Downstairs: XTC. SUN:  
Betty Ford Hangover Clinic Show, DJ Jazzy.

**SECRETS BAR AND GRILL** 10249-107 St.,  
990-1818. Lesbian and gay bar/restaurant.

**TRANSSEXUAL/TRANSGENDER SUPPORT**  
GROUP GLCCE, Suite 45, 9912-106 St., 488-  
3234. •Every 4th TUE ea. month (7pm):  
Meeting. Information and mutual support  
for transgendered people in an open, friendly  
and safe environment. Open to transsexuals,  
transvestites, cross-dressers, drag queens/  
kings.

**YOUTH UNDERSTANDING YOUTH** Gay  
and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton  
(GLCCE), 45, 9912-106 St., 488-3234. •Every  
SAT (7-9pm): A facilitated social/support  
group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgen-  
dered, straight, and questioning youth who  
are under the age of 25. www.yuyouth.tri-  
pod.com/yuy.

## THEATRE

**EDUCATING RITA** Jekyll and Hyde Pub and  
Restaurant, 10610-100 Ave., 420-1757.  
Presented by Image Theatre. By Willy Russell.  
The relationship between a middle-aged pro-  
fessor and a forthright young woman. Jan. 16-  
18, 21-25. TIX \$13-\$16. Adv. tickets @ TIX on  
the Square.

**IF WE ARE WOMEN** The Citadel, Shocter  
Theatre, 9828-101A Ave., 425-1820, 420-

1757. By Joanna McClelland Glass. Three gen-  
erations of women gather together after the  
passing of a loved one and share their pasts  
and their futures. Jan. 25-Feb. 16. TIX \$24-  
\$52. Opening Night: Thu, Jan. 30, 8pm, \$69.  
Friday Night Rush: Fri, Jan. 31, 8pm. Pay-  
What-You-Can: Sun, Feb. 2, 8pm. Talk Back  
Tuesday: Tue, Feb. 4 (after the 8pm perform-  
ance). Seniors Matinee: Thu, Feb. 6. Tickets @  
Citadel box office, TIX on the Square. Rush  
Seats (50% off regular adult ticket) available  
one hour before each performance.

**SURVIVAL: THE IMPROVISATION GAME**  
Jagged Edge Theatre, 3rd Fl. City Centre East,  
479-0323. •Every FRI \$5.

**THE SWORD IN THE STONE** The Citadel,  
Rice Theatre, 9828-101A Ave., 425-1820. By  
Marty Chan. Part of KIDSPRAY (Plays for the  
Young (K-6) and the Young at Heart). Arthur  
must fight a mighty archrival, outwit a wizard  
named Merlyn and defeat the creature of  
the dark woods. If he survives these tests,  
he must face his greatest challenge-free  
the sword in the stone to become king.  
Jan. 28-Feb. 9.

**THE ZOO STORY** Jagged Edge Theatre, 3rd  
Fl., Edmonton City Centre, 420-1757. By  
Edward Albee. Presented by Jagged Edge  
Theatre. Peter, a bourgeois square and Jerry, a  
hipster-drifter, are strangers who happen to  
meet in the park. Each man is symbolically  
caged in his own private hell. Jan. 21-Feb. 1.  
Tue-Fri 12:10pm; Sat 8pm. TIX \$8, \$7 senior.  
Tue \$4 (double Toonie Tuesdays). Adv. tickets  
@ TIX on the Square. TIX and a brown bag  
lunch can be pre-ordered by 11am day of the  
show @ 463-4237.

## WORKSHOPS

**FILM AND VIDEO ARTS SOCIETY OF**  
**EDMONTON (FAVA)** Ortona Armoury,  
9722-102 St., 429-1671. •Every MON (7-  
10pm) *Monday Night Club:* A weekly series of  
drop-in workshops to give Edmonton's actors,  
dancers and other performers a chance to  
hone on-screen skills and link local filmmakers  
and screenwriters with fresh talents. Free.

**STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY** 7 Sir  
Winston Churchill Sq., Edmonton Community  
Network, Rm. 616, 6th Floor, 414-5656.

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 <b>#7</b> \$24 <sup>79</sup> DVD HARRY POTTER & THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE	 <b>#8</b> \$25 <sup>79</sup> DVD ICE AGE	 <b>#9</b> \$24 <sup>79</sup> DVD BLACK HAWK DOWN	 <b>#10</b> \$24 <sup>79</sup> DVD SHREK	 <b>#11</b> \$24 <sup>79</sup> DVD AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER	 <b>#12</b> \$27 <sup>79</sup> DVD MINORITY REPORT
 <b>#14</b> \$24 <sup>79</sup> DVD OCEAN'S ELEVEN	 <b>#15</b> \$22 <sup>79</sup> DVD THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS	 <b>#16</b> \$24 <sup>79</sup> DVD TRAINING DAY	 <b>#17</b> \$27 <sup>79</sup> DVD BLADE II	 <b>#18</b> \$97 <sup>79</sup> DVD BAND OF BROTHERS	 <b>#19</b> \$25 <sup>79</sup> DVD AMERICAN PIE 2- Unrated
					 <b>#20</b> \$25 <sup>99</sup> DVD MOULIN ROUGE

# TOP 30 CDs

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| <b>8. AVRIL LAVIGNE</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Let Go... \$14 <sup>99</sup>                   | <b>14. DIANA KRALL</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Look Of Love... \$14 <sup>79</sup>       | <b>20. NELLY</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Nellyville... \$13 <sup>99</sup>                  | <b>26. KYLIE MINOGUE</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Fever... \$13 <sup>99</sup>      |
| <b>9. RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> By The Way... \$14 <sup>79</sup>       | <b>15. 8 MILE</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Soundtrack... \$14 <sup>99</sup>              | <b>21. REMY SHAND</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Way I Feel... \$13 <sup>99</sup>             | <b>27. BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Rising... \$15 <sup>79</sup> |
| <b>10. O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Soundtrack... \$13 <sup>99</sup> | <b>16. DIANA KRALL</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Live In Paris... \$14 <sup>79</sup>      | <b>22. ENRIQUE IGLESIAS</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Escape... \$14 <sup>79</sup>           | <b>28. I AM SAM</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Soundtrack... \$14 <sup>79</sup>      |
| <b>11. U2</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Best Of 1990-2000 (1CD)... \$14 <sup>99</sup>            | <b>17. SHERYL CROW</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> C'mon C'mon... \$14 <sup>79</sup>        | <b>23. MOBY</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> 18... \$14 <sup>79</sup>                           | <b>29. SHAKIRA</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Laundry Service... \$14 <sup>99</sup>  |
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